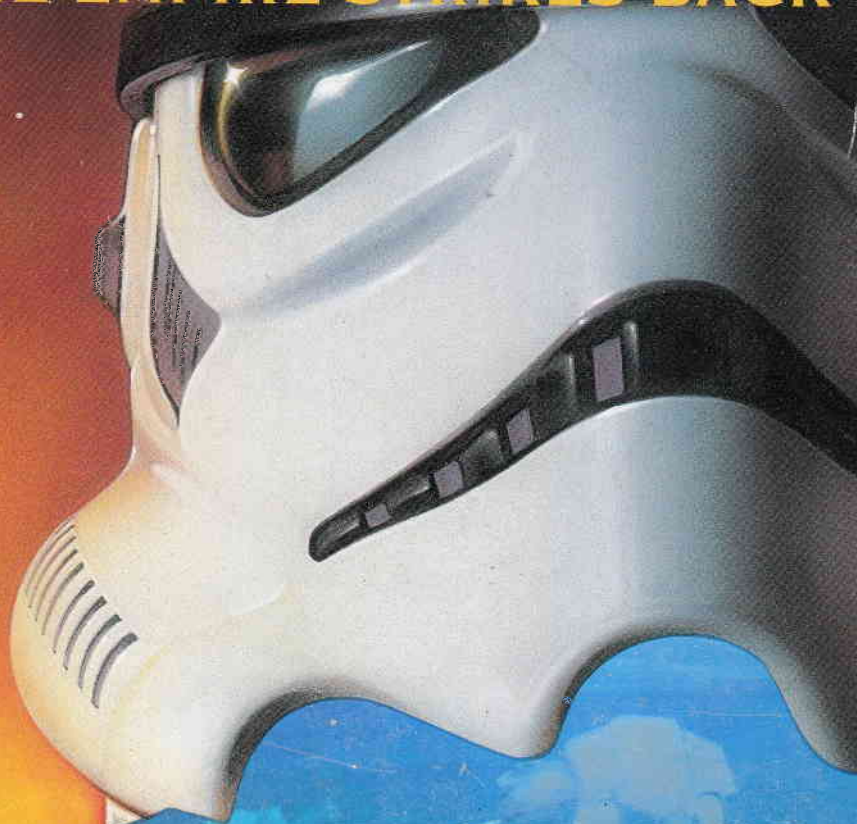


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THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK



CHRISTOPHER GOLDEN

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betray Luke Skywalker, Princess
Leia, and all who love you to seize
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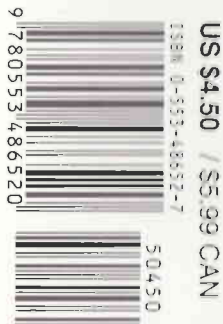
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Vader is right about so many things, you realize. You do hate him, and you fear him. You attack.

Vader fights back. Your lightsabers flash and spark. With all your hate and strength, you swing the lightsaber down on him. Vader blocks the attack but staggers backward with the power of your blow.

"Ah, you see!" he says. "You have enough hate to make you a powerful warrior. It is easier for you to use the dark side than the light, isn't it?"

You must agree. The dark side gives you power that you never knew existed. But if you yield to its temptations, what will become of the Rebels . . . and your friends?

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THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK

BY CHRISTOPHER GOLDEN

Illustrated by Phil Franké



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THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK

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**FOR JEFF AND MARYELIZABETH . . . ANOTHER
MYSTERIOUS GALAXY.**

I would like to gratefully acknowledge the support and contributions of my agent, Lori Perkins; the team at Bantam, especially Diana Capriotti, Karen Meyers, and Beverly Horowitz; Sue Rostoni at Lucasfilm; radio scribe Brian Daley; the Jedi Master George Lucas, and every person whose hard work went into making the original film; and of course, as always, my wonderful wife, Connie, who knows this stuff even better than I do.

WARNING!!!

Do not read this book straight through from beginning to end. These pages contain exciting galactic adventures you may have as you and your friends fight against the evil empire of Emperor Palpatine and his minion, Darth Vader.

From time to time, you will have to make a choice. Beware—what looks like the right choice may lead you to hidden danger and unknown enemies. So think carefully about what you should do. After you make a decision, follow the instructions to find out what will happen next to you and your friends. Every decision you make for yourself will have immediate consequences for the lives of your closest friends.

You're caught in the middle of a battle between good and evil. Courage and honor can lead you to glorious victory, but the dark side of the Force offers unimaginable power. Will you be strong enough to make the right choices for yourself and your friends? Read on and find out.

Good luck!

It's cold. Freezing, in fact. You can't believe that a planet as frozen as Hoth exists in your universe. You do not want to go back outside. But you chose this life. . . .

You were born and raised far away on the planet Tatooine, a dustball where moisture farming is big business and where twin suns shine every day. But you and your best friend, Luke Skywalker, always wanted to be fighter pilots, not moisture farmers. You pause for a minute and remember the remarkable events that changed your life so completely.

Not so long ago, you and Luke had a chance to taste excitement when you were drawn into the Rebellion against the evil Empire. During your adventures, you were joined by the aging Jedi Knight Ben Kenobi, a young Rebel leader named Princess Leia, a roguish intergalactic smuggler named Han Solo, and his first mate, the Wookiee Chewbacca, as well as a pair of droids called R2-D2 and C-3PO. With this mismatched crew, you and Luke helped lead the Rebellion to an important victory. Luke himself fired the blast that destroyed the Death Star, the Empire's most fearsome weapon.

Solo spins, draws his blaster, and fires directly at Darth Vader. But a blaster can't do a thing against a dark Jedi Master. Vader deflects the blasts with his hand, then lifts his arm into the air. The blaster is torn from Han's grip and flies to Vader's open hand.

Stormtroopers rush up behind Han and grab him and Leia, training their weapons on Chewbacca so the Wookiee doesn't dare make a move.

"I'm sorry, old friend, I had no choice. They arrived right before you did," Lando says to Han.

"Not as sorry as I am," Han replies. He looks across the room at you. "You too, kid? It's just a day full of surprises. And traitors."

You say nothing. After a few moments, Vader orders the Rebels taken away. His plan is to lure Luke Skywalker to Cloud City by holding them. He even tortures Han, hoping that Luke will hear his cries of pain through the Force and come to the rescue. You know that Vader is right. The only way to stop Luke from coming is to get the others off Cloud City as quickly as possible. You hope you and Lando can carry out your plan.

After Han's torture is over, you and Lando go to the cell where he and the others are being held.

You take the comlink from Han and speak into it.

"Rogue Two," you say, "make sure there's a med team standing by. Commander Skywalker needs immediate treatment."

A short time later, you're all back at the base. Luke is in the medlab, and you and Han, finally warm, walk over to the command center to see Leia. As you enter, you see her huddled over a bank of sensor monitors with General Rieekan and C-3PO. Everyone looks worried.

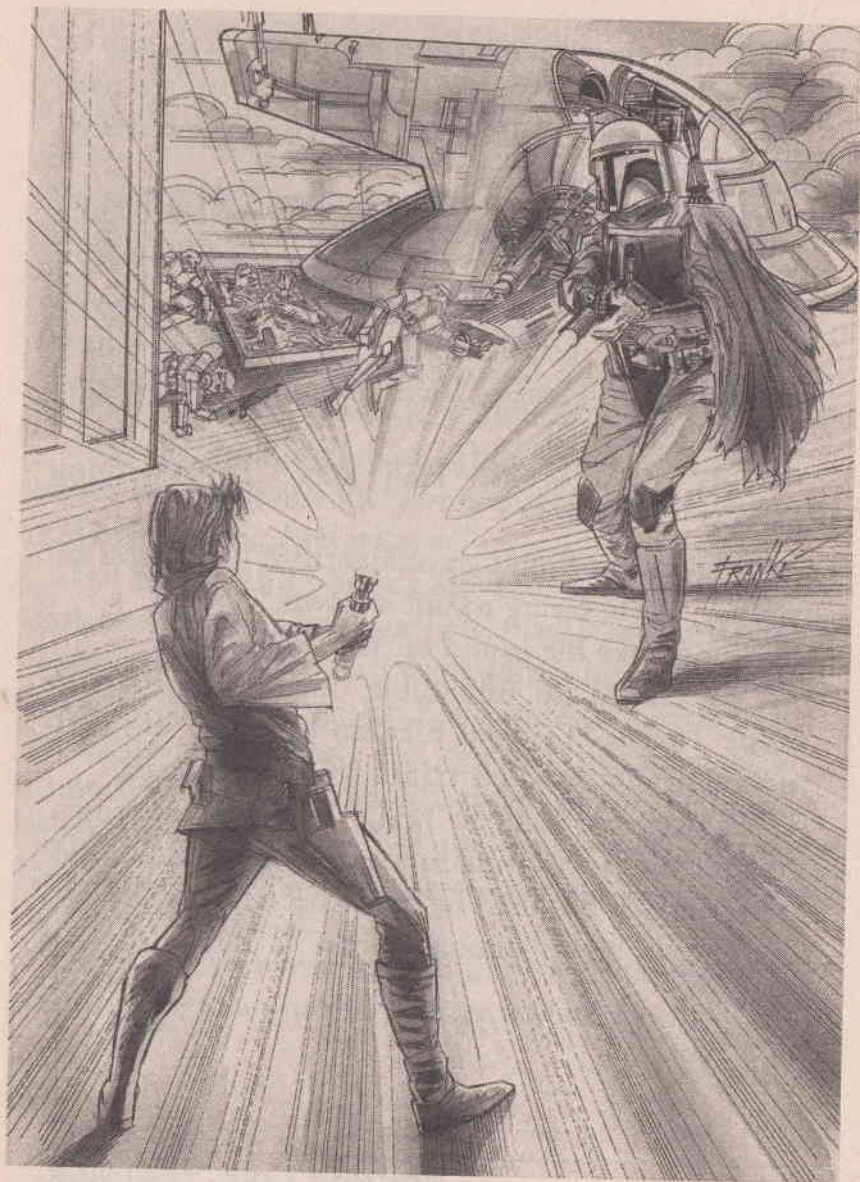
"Leia, what is it?" Han asks. "Is something wrong?"

"Sensors just found an unidentified blip," Leia explains. "We're trying to pin it down."

"I don't like the sound of that," you say.

"We picked up something outside the base, in Zone Twelve," General Rieekan explains. "It's definitely metallic, and it's transmitting something."

"Pardon me, Princess Leia," Threepio interrupts. "I am fluent in six million forms of communication. This signal is not used by the Rebel Alliance. In fact, I think it highly probable that it is an Imperial code."



Boba Fett's ship is docked on a platform not far away. It doesn't take you long to get there. As you run onto the platform, you see several stormtroopers pushing the carbonite-frozen form of Han Solo in front of them.

"Hold it!" you shout, warning them. It wouldn't be honorable to shoot them in the back.

They turn, pulling their blasters, and start to fire at you. You take shelter behind a pillar and return fire, taking all four stormtroopers down quickly. As you run toward the block of carbonite, Boba Fett stomps down the ramp of his ship, his weapon drawn.

"Not another step!" he shouts.

You pull your lightsaber out just as Fett fires at you. You block the bolts with it and move closer to Fett.

"Leave," he says. "Solo's mine. There's a lot of money on his head, and I'm not giving it up just because you've got some fancy moves with that toy. You're too young to be a Jedi, even if there were any Jedi left."

"No!" you shout. "I'm not leaving you!"

The wampa swings a mighty, clawed paw down at you. You spin inside the beast's attack and cut deeply into its arm, drawing blood. It bellows in pain and swipes at you again, but you duck and roll and come up again a few feet from Luke.

"Pretty good," Luke says as you melt the ice that pins his feet to the cavern roof. He falls to the ground with a grunt.

"I've paid attention to your lessons," you say.

With a roar, the wampa launches itself across the cave at both of you.

"But it's still your weapon, old friend," you say. "I think you should hang on to it."

You toss the lightsaber through the air. It flips over twice. Luke catches it without even glancing at it. He's watching the wampa. The ice beast sees you throw the weapon but is still heading toward you.

"I think it likes you," Luke says.

"Either that, or it's mad about that little cut I gave it," you say, joking even though you are terrified.

Just then the call comes over the comlink for final evacuation. The base is about to fall to Imperial troops. All pilots must now escort the last transports and get their X-wings off the planet. The walkers move very slowly, and it's easy to fly away from the fight now that the order has been given.

But Luke's still on the ground.

You fly low over Luke. He waves you on. He's obviously heard the evacuation order on his helmet comlink and plans to walk all the way back! You head back to base but resolve to wait there for him, no matter what. When he finally walks into base, half frozen but ready to board his X-wing, you are there waiting for him.

"Just you and me, Luke," you say. "Now, where was it we were supposed to go on this errand?"

Luke laughs over the comlink as you both fire up your X-wings.

"We're not going to rendezvous with the others, Lieutenant," Luke reveals. "We're going to a little planet in the Dagobah System to find a Jedi Master named Yoda."

"Dagobah?" you say in surprise. "Yoda? What's this all about?"

"Well, it looks like it worked," Lando says. "According to Vader, he's on his way here right now."

"You fixed us all real good, Lando," Han says angrily.

"Han," Lando says, "I've got a whole city full of people to protect. There was nothing else I could do."

"Save it!" Han shouts. He punches Lando, knocking him down.

The guards move to grab Han, but Lando waves them away.

"Listen, Han, I'm sorry I couldn't do more, but I've got my own problems," Lando says.

The door opens behind Lando and the Cloud City security guards. Several stormtroopers enter. You and your friends are held at blasterpoint and shuffled down a corridor. Lando follows.

"What's happening, Lando?" Han asks. "Is this part of your deal?"

"Not at all," Lando says, but there's nothing he can do.

You are all brought into a large, dark chamber. In the center of the room is a hole in the floor.

But Vader has overestimated Luke's injuries. In the moment that he turns to stop your lightsaber, Luke leaps forward. Now he slashes at Vader, cutting across his chest and through his armor.

Darth Vader falls dead at Luke Skywalker's feet. You rise and run to Luke just in time to catch him as he falls, exhausted, next to his opponent.

"You saved my life," he says.

"And you mine," you reply. "Now let's go find the others."

But Leia, Chewbacca, and Lando are nowhere to be found. They have already left aboard the *Millennium Falcon*. A week later, when you finally catch up to them, they are already planning to go rescue Han—still frozen in carbonite—from Boba Fett and Jabba the Hutt.

While Luke and Leia stay behind to help rebuild the Rebellion, you join Lando and Chewbacca in searching the galaxy for Boba Fett, tracking down Han's carbonite-frozen body. When you've found him, you'll call the others, and then it will be time to rescue Han Solo.

But that is another story.

THE END

MORE TROUBLE AHEAD.

FLIP TO PAGE 69.

Though it is dark and cold, and you think you can hear things moving in the shadows inside, you gather your courage and enter the cave. At first you can't see anything, but it seems to grow lighter as you go farther inside. Then you hear the sound of metal against metal. You turn a corner to see a squad of stormtroopers waiting for you with their blasters drawn!

You have no idea how they got there, but you pull your blaster and start firing. Soon you realize you are seriously outnumbered and decide to retreat. You turn and run from the cave.

"What?" Luke shouts. "What is it?"

But when you turn around, there are no stormtroopers. It was all an illusion. Then it's Luke's turn. While he's inside, you ask Yoda what caused the illusion.

"You saw your own fear inside," he explains. "You feared that you would run, and you did. You must learn to overcome your fears."

"What will Luke face in the cave?" you ask.

"Only Luke will know," Yoda replies.

Vader steps forward and slaps you in the face. His glove cuts your cheek.

"Pain helps also," Vader says simply. "Now, take your lightsaber and attack me!"

You turn your lightsaber on. It hums to life, glowing as you slash it back and forth in front of you. Vader is right about many things, you realize. You hate him, and you fear him. You are angry and in pain. You attack!

Vader fights back. Your lightsabers flash and spark. With all your hate and strength, you swing the lightsaber down on him. Vader blocks the attack, but actually staggers backward from the power of your blow.

"Ah, you see!" he says. "You have enough hate to make you a powerful warrior. It is easier for you to use the dark side of the Force than the light, isn't it?"

You must agree: The dark side gives you power that you never knew existed. But still it scares you. You are determined to learn what you can from Vader and then use it against him somehow without falling to the dark side.

Each day, though, it gets harder to remember that you are not really Darth Vader's apprentice. It would be so easy to give in completely to the dark side.

You stare at Han for a moment, unwilling to cut open the beast.

"Get to it," Han orders. "It's going to feel disgusting and smell even worse, but it'll keep Luke alive while we set up the emergency shelter."

You follow his instructions. Even as you cut open the dead tauntaun, the other falls over onto the snow. You feel sorry for the beasts, but you concentrate on saving Luke's life and making sure you and Han live to see the morning.

Together you and Han set up the emergency shelter and move Luke into it. You climb in after him, hoping your combined body heat and the shelter's own reserves will keep you warm until morning. You are exhausted and drained by exposure to the cold. It isn't long before you drift off to sleep.

But it's no use. You're so cold now that your mind is slowing down. It's becoming hard to think. You dimly remember a technician mentioning that ice crystals in the air make surface communications very difficult after dark. It's one of the drawbacks of having the base on Hoth.

Still, you refuse to give up. You turn in the direction where you believe the base is and begin to trudge across the ice. After two dozen steps, you fall for the first time. The second time you fall, you don't get up again.

You lie in the snow, freezing. Your last thoughts form an apology to Luke. In the morning they'll find your frozen body. Inside the cave, they'll find only Luke's bones.

THE END

"You think we're going to trust you now, after what you did to Han?" Leia asks angrily. "We don't need your help, Lando."

"Leia, listen to him," you urge.

"There's still . . . time," Lando sputters. "Han . . . There's still time . . . to save . . . Han!"

"Let him go, Chewie," Leia says.

Chewbacca obeys immediately.

"If you're lying just to save your own skin—" Leia begins, but Lando interrupts her.

"I'm not. They're loading Han onto the bounty hunter Boba Fett's ship, *Slave I*, out on the east platform," Lando explains. "Maybe we can catch him."

"Let's move!" Leia says. She and Chewbacca pick up the blasters the stormtroopers dropped and turn to go back down the hallway.

"No!" you say. Leia turns to stare at you angrily.

"What?" she asks.

"I'll go," you explain. "You and Chewbacca get back to the *Falcon* and scan her for any tracking devices. I'll get Han. I'll be back before you know it."

"You said you wanted to be around when I made a mistake, Princess," Han says. "This could be it!"

"I take it back, Han!" Leia cries.

Several smaller asteroids smash into the ship.

"I'm going in closer to that big one!" Han says, pointing out the largest asteroid yet.

"Closer?" you and Leia shout together.

Han flies along the surface of the asteroid. The remaining TIE fighters are destroyed while trying to follow. A moment later, Han spots a cave and decides to land the ship inside it to make repairs. You are all relieved, for the moment, to be protected from the asteroids.

While the others disembark to repair the *Falcon*, you wait inside with C-3PO. From time to time, the cavern rumbles around the ship.

"You do what you have to, Luke," you say, realizing that Luke wants to meet Vader one-on-one. "I'll go and make sure everyone else gets off Cloud City safely."

You run down several corridors to catch up with the stormtroopers escorting Leia and Chewbacca. There is another man there, a government official of some kind. You don't know whose side he's on, but he's not wearing handcuffs, so you assume he and his men are with the Imperials.

Still, this may be your only chance to rescue your friends. It's now or never. You reach out into the Force, trying to remember the things that Yoda and Ben Kenobi taught you, and the things you and Luke discussed when you were training together on Dagobah. You focus your mind and imagine a loud bang off to the left.

Bang!

It works! Everybody looks to see what has made the sound, including the stormtroopers. In the midst of their confusion, you fire your blaster and hit two of the troopers. The men go down hard on the floor in a clatter of armor. The other stormtroopers turn and begin to fire at you. You return fire and call for your friends to take cover.

A short time later, Yoda uses the Force to raise your X-wing from the swamp. Luke and Artoo help you repair the ship, and then you take off. Luke promises to meet up with you and Rogue Squadron as soon as possible.

You return to the place where Rogue Flight was supposed to rendezvous after leaving Hoth. You become Rogue Leader and continue to fight in the Rebellion. You strike at Imperial bases, hiding out wherever possible.

Eventually you hear about Luke and the others and their adventures on Cloud City. You meet them on a Rebel space station. Luke never mentions the cave, or what he saw when he went inside, and you never ask. You don't want to know.

THE END

Lando makes an announcement over the public-address system, instructing all residents of Cloud City to evacuate. Not far from the landing bay, a door whooshes open, and out steps Darth Vader.

"Go!" you scream to the others.

"Kid!" Han roars. "You don't have to do this!"

"If I don't, nobody gets out," you reply. "It's the least I can do."

Then they're gone, leaving you to face Darth Vader. The sound of his ragged breathing is enough to terrify you.

"You should never have betrayed me," he says. His voice is chilling as he flicks on his lightsaber. "You could have had such power."

You turn on your own lightsaber and attack him right away. Your blades meet and spark. You back up to attack again. But Vader easily avoids your thrust and brings his own lightsaber across your body. You collapse on the ground.

Vader turns away, ignoring you now that you have been defeated. You are beneath his notice. But his troopers come in and escort you to a prison cell, where you will spend the next thirty years.

THE END

You wake in the morning inside the emergency shelter. Your eyes are closed, and you can hear the crackle of comlink static. You also hear the sound of snoring. It's Luke, right next to you. You sit up, thrilled to realize that you're all alive!

"Han!" you say, shaking Solo awake. "Get up!"

Han stretches and yawns, then suddenly stops in midstretch. He glances over at you, then Luke, then finally laughs.

"We made it through the night!" he cries.

Just then the static crackle of the comlink cuts off and is replaced by the greatest sound you've ever heard—the voice of your rescuer!

"Echo Base, Echo Base, this is Rogue Two."

The voice belongs to Zev, an X-wing pilot. You realize he must be flying overhead. Rescue is here! Han picks up the comlink and speaks.

"Rogue Two, this is Solo," he says. "Do you copy?"

"This is Rogue Two," Zev replies from his X-wing high above. "I hear you. Do you copy?"

"Gotcha loud and clear, Zev!" Han replies happily. "Good morning! Nice of you to drop by."

"I've got your homing beacon on my screen," Zev says. "Be right with you."

"I accept," you say quickly. "I will be your apprentice."

"Excellent," Vader says. "I can sense that you hate me. We will use that hatred to make you an unbeatable warrior."

When the Imperials discover no one else on the Rebel base, you accompany Vader to his Star Destroyer. He gives you your own lightsaber and begins to instruct you in the ways of the Force. You train for hours and hours, trying to gain greater power. You try to stay calm and cool, the way Ben Kenobi taught, and not use the dark side, but it isn't easy.

The second day after the Rebel evacuation from Hoth, Vader takes you into his private chambers for another lesson.

"What you must learn is that the Force is not there to help you, as Kenobi might have told you," Vader says. "The Force is there to be used, the way you might use any weapon. It is there to serve you. And the way to control it is by using your emotions. Your own anger and hatred will allow you to access the greatest amount of power from the Force."

**LEARN MORE ABOUT THE
FORCE ON PAGE 11.**

"I'd be crazy to go back to my ship. Let's go!"

The tunnel shakes again, hit by more fire from the Imperials. Along with Leia, Han, and Threepio, you hurry back to the repair bay. Chewbacca already has the *Millennium Falcon's* engines running. You all run up the ramp just as stormtroopers break in.

"Hey, kid, blast those guys, will ya?" Han calls down to you.

You whip out your blaster and fire at the stormtroopers. Suddenly Darth Vader appears in the open doorway. Luckily the ramp starts to rise beneath you. Seconds later, you are strapped into one of the freighter's gun seats, firing at Imperial ships as the *Falcon* blasts out of Hoth's atmosphere. C-3PO keeps trying to tell Han something, but Han ignores him, determined to get you all out alive. Under fire from TIE fighters and two Star Destroyers, Han tells everyone to sit tight—it's time for hyperdrive.

But nothing happens.

"That's what I've been trying to tell you, sir," Threepio says. "I noticed earlier that the hyperdrive motivator was damaged. It's impossible to go to lightspeed."

"We're in trouble," you say.

"Big trouble," Leia agrees.

UH-OH! TURN TO PAGE 38.

"But what about Boba Fett?" Leia asks. "And the stormtroopers?"

Chewbacca roars in agreement.

"I can handle them," you say. You realize that you mean it. You know you can handle them. You're a Jedi Knight now.

"What about Luke?" Leia asks.

"Trust me on this, Princess," you say. "I've known Luke my entire life. He can take care of himself. There's nothing we can do for him anyway, except let Vader kill us. I don't think that would help."

Leia smiles. Then her face grows gravely serious again.

"Bring Han back," she says.

You're gone, running off down the corridor, headed for the east platform and Boba Fett.

Suddenly the wampa throws its weight at you. Luke moves to block the attack, forcing the wampa to turn and defend itself by swatting him away. Luke dodges under its hand to slash at its legs. The beast roars and reaches for him again, more cautious this time. Luke takes advantage of the wampa's fear and with one mighty swipe of his blade chops off the wampa's hand.

The fight has obviously been more than the wampa bargained for. You watch as it runs deep into the cave, roaring in pain and holding on to a stump where its hand used to be.

Luke turns off his lightsaber.

"Thanks, old friend," you say. "I do believe you saved my life."

"You did the same for me," he replies. "Now we've got to get out of here in case this thing has a mate. I guess it's time to find out why they call Hoth the ice planet."

"I thought we already knew that," you reply.

Moments after you leave the cave, you feel your hands, feet, and face going numb. Your thoughts start to slow down.

"Are we . . . sure this is the right way?" you ask.

"I'm sorry, Vader, but no," you reply. "No matter what happens to me, I would rather be dead than end up a cruel, heartless monster like you."

Vader stares at you a moment. His breathing grows louder.

"So be it," he growls. "But death would be too easy for you. If you will not learn the ways of the dark side, there are other methods by which you can serve the Empire. I will see to it that you spend the rest of your life mining spice on the planet Kessel."

"Kessel?" you whisper. "No, please . . ."

But it is too late. When the stormtroopers return, you are transported to Kessel. The mines are incredibly hot and almost completely dark, the air difficult to breathe. And you spend the rest of your life there. Yours is a fate worse than death.

THE END

"You okay, Han?" you ask.

"I will be, kid, thanks to you," Han replies.

As you're helping him up, the *Millennium Falcon* appears above and lands on the platform next to Han. When the ramp drops, Leia runs out and hugs Han, then helps him back up into the ship. You join them. Soon you are all flying away from Cloud City.

"What about Luke?" Han asks.

"He's got his X-wing," you say, not wanting to mention Vader. But Han knows.

"So if he's still alive, he'll get away on his own," Han says.

There is silence on board the ship.

But before you can get too far away, you feel a presence, a familiar voice reaching out to you in the Force. You glance up at Leia. From the look in her eyes, you can see that she feels it, too.

"Luke!" the two of you say simultaneously.

"What?" Lando asks, startled.

"Luke!" you say. "Han, we've got to go back for him."

"You've got it!" Han says happily.

"But we don't even know where we're going!" Lando argues.

"Luke," you say, "you're so much more skilled with the Force . . ."

"Just trust in it," he says. "The lightsaber is closer to you, so we'll will it to your hands. Cut yourself down, and then me."

You nod. It's hard to concentrate, but your life and the life of your best friend depend upon it. You reach out with the Force. You can feel Luke doing the same. It is as if your minds are working together. You focus on the lightsaber. It begins to move! A moment later, it flies from the snow with the sound of crackling ice and comes right to your hand.

With the flick of a switch, the lightsaber roars to life. But the sound has alerted the wampa. You can hear a roar and the pounding of feet as it tromps through the cave toward you.

With a single slash of the lightsaber, you cut yourself free. Quickly you spring to your feet and spin to free Luke. But it's too late. The wampa ice beast emerges from the back of the cave.

"Run!" Luke shouts. "Get help!"

You're tempted to do as he says. But if you run, Luke may die.

IF YOU STAY AND FIGHT, TURN TO PAGE 6.

IF YOU RUN FOR HELP, TURN TO PAGE 72.



You're a good pilot. Good enough to evade some TIE fighters, and good enough to get out of the asteroid field. But not good enough to do both at once! Nobody is—nobody but Han Solo or Luke Skywalker.

As you think of your friends, you realize how terrible it was of you to leave them behind. Especially now that you're going to be killed despite your escape. A TIE fighter comes in close, firing, and you dodge the attack, only to put yourself in the path of a huge asteroid, bigger than a space station.

The *Millennium Falcon* is destroyed, and you along with it.

THE END

Later, on the main level inside Cloud City, Lando discusses business. He is the city's baron-administrator, and it isn't an easy job. The Empire's power and the Rebellion's efforts have led to labor and supply problems. During the conversation, you notice that C-3PO has disappeared. He must have wandered off, you think. Maybe for a cleaning. After all, you realize, he hasn't had one since Luke first became his owner back on Tatooine.

Only later, after you've all been shown to your quarters, does Chewbacca go out to look for Threepio and come back with what's left of him. Someone has smashed the droid to pieces! Chewbacca sets about trying to put him back together.

Just then, Lando arrives and asks everyone to join him in the banquet hall.

"I don't know about the rest of you," you say as you head toward the smell of food, "but I'm hungry."

After a moment, Lando says, "Here's the banquet hall."

The others start in, but you hold back a moment. Something doesn't feel right. Then Chewbacca pushes you from behind, and you go inside.

Inside the banquet hall stands Darth Vader! By his side is an armored figure who can only be the notorious intergalactic bounty hunter Boba Fett.

"I had a vision earlier, when I was freezing out there on the ice," Luke explains. "Ben Kenobi told me where I had to go to complete my Jedi training. Ben started to train you the same as he did me. I thought it was only right that you come along."

"Thanks, Luke," you say. "Let's get going, before the Empire ruins our chances of meeting this Yoda."

Luke laughs again. You leave Hoth, heading across the galaxy together to a small, jungle-and-swamp-covered planet in the Dagobah System.

When you reach the planet, you find it covered in a thick layer of clouds. There are no cities or large buildings, but according to your fighter's scanners, there is plenty of life. You and Luke decide to land. But the moment your X-wings hit the cloud layer, all your instruments go dead.

"Luke, what is it?" you cry as your ship begins to shake.

"I don't know. Just start your landing program!" Luke shouts.

Seconds later, both ships crash into a foul-smelling swamp. Even as you climb out on your wing, it begins to sink. Luke barely gets R2-D2 out in time, and your own R2 unit is malfunctioning.

You and Luke run, side by side, through Cloud City. Darth Vader's presence is so strong that even though you are not as attuned to the Force as Luke, you can sense it now. As you search for Vader, you see Chewbacca and Leia being escorted by guards. Luke asks you to stay and free them.

"They're still alive," you say. "That means they're okay for now. Let's take care of Vader—then we'll free them together."

Luke agrees. A minute later, you quietly enter a darkened chamber. You can hear Vader's hoarse breathing beneath his black mask.

"Ah, Skywalker. I expected you to come alone," Vader says.

"Luke is never alone," you say. "Even if I weren't here, Ben Kenobi and the Force would be with him."

Vader appears and lunges at you both. You and Luke each draw and ignite your lightsabers. Vader attacks. Together you are able to fight him off, even drive him back a bit.

"Obi-Wan taught you well," Vader says. "But you are not Jedi yet."

"I'm sure," Luke replies. You're glad to have him along. With his skill in the Force, you're certain that he knows what he's talking about. You move on, doing your best to just keep walking.

Luke talks into the comlink on his wrist.

"Echo Three to Echo Base, come in," he groans. "It's . . . it's an emergency. Freezing out here . . . need help. Please come in, Echo Base."

You trudge through the snow, hoping that someone will hear Luke and get to your location fast enough to save you from freezing to death.

"Echo Three to Echo Base," Luke tries again. "Please come in."

"They're not going to hear you," you tell Luke. "Remember what the techs said, about the ice crystals and the cold affecting surface communications after dark? We're . . . we're not going to make it, Luke."

Luke stops walking and turns to you.

"Don't give up. Ever," he says.

You walk on, but after another few meters, you fall to the snow. Luke tries to help you up, only to fall himself. Lying in the snow, you realize that you are going to die.

After the long journey to Bespin, you land in Cloud City and walk down the ramp from the *Falcon*. A door slides open to reveal several armed Cloud City security men and a tall, handsome, dark-skinned man dressed in blue and black with a stylish light blue knee-length cape.

"Lando!" Han calls happily.

"Solo!" Calrissian says. "So it *is* you!"

"I've got a bad feeling about this," you mutter. Han shushes you.

Calrissian stomps toward Han angrily.

"You slimy, double-crossing, no-good swindler!" he snarls at Han. "You've got a lot of guts, coming to Cloud City after what you pulled!"

Calrissian takes a swing at Solo, and Han starts to duck. Then Calrissian breaks into a laugh and pulls Han toward him in a big hug.

"Hah!" Calrissian says. "How you doin', you old pirate? It's great to see you! I never thought I'd catch up with you again."

Han introduces you, Leia, and Threepio to Calrissian. Lando is very friendly to all of you, but especially to Leia.

But the tauntaun suddenly falls to the ground with a huge thud. Han swears loudly. You realize, though your brain is almost numb, that the tauntaun is dead.

"Only one thing to do," Han mumbles.

You hear a sound like someone cutting leather. Then you notice the most horrible odor you've ever smelled. Luke is dragged away from his spot next to you, and then Han has you under the arms. He slides you into a slimy, stinky hole.

But it's warm. After a moment, you realize that Han has cut open the dead tauntaun and is using its body heat to keep you and Luke warm while he sets up an emergency shelter. When he finally moves you both into the shelter, you have one last conscious thought, a hope that his quick thinking can keep all three of you from freezing to death.

Then you drift off to sleep.

"You don't . . . understand!" Lando croaks, barely able to speak. "I had . . . no choice."

"You think we're going to trust you now, after what you did to Han?" Leia asks angrily.

"Chewbacca, you're going to kill him!" you shout. Chewie roars in agreement.

"There's still . . . time," Lando sputters. "Han . . . There's still time . . . to save . . . Han!"

"Drop him, Chewie," Leia orders.

Chewbacca obeys immediately.

"If you're lying just to save your own skin—" Leia begins, but Lando interrupts her.

"I'm not. They're loading Han onto Boba Fett's ship, *Slave I*, out on the east platform," Lando explains. "It's still there."

"Let's move!" Leia says. She and Chewbacca pick up blasters the stormtroopers have dropped and turn to go back down the hallway.

"No!" you say. Leia turns to stare at you angrily.

"What?" she asks.

"I'll go," you explain. "You and Chewbacca get back to the *Falcon*, make sure the hyperdrive is fixed. I'll get Han and be back before you know it."

"But what about Boba Fett?" Leia asks. "And the stormtroopers?"

"Luke will die if we don't head back, Han," you insist.

Han glances angrily at you. "He's not going to die!" He drags Luke toward the surviving tauntaun.

"Don't just stand there whistling," he barks. "Help me get him up there."

Together you sling Luke over the tauntaun's back. Then you pause, staring at the beast. There's no way both of you can fit up there with Luke.

"Listen, Han," you say quickly, "I can try to use the Force to keep myself warm. Get up there with Luke and I'll follow on foot."

"I didn't know you could do that," he says.

"Neither do I" you admit. "But it's our only hope."

Han gets on the tauntaun's back behind Luke and heads toward the base. You tap into the Force as best you can, trying desperately to create warmth from nothing.

As fast as you can, you follow Han on the tauntaun. Your effort warms you, but slowly the cold seeps in. Your focus starts to slip. Then you stumble upon the second tauntaun, dead in the snow, with Luke and Han pinned under it, unmoving. Your will to fight the cold gives out. You fall a meter away from Han, and you don't get up again.

THE END

Outside the base, the three of you ride tauntauns, large, leathery-skinned animals well suited to the cold on Hoth. During the day at least. At night, Hoth's surface isn't fit for any living thing, except perhaps the horrible wampa ice creatures.

You, Luke, and Han split up and spend several hours planting sensors. After a while, you regroup to check on each other's progress.

"Have either of you picked up any life readings so far?" Luke asks.

"All I'm picking up are saddle sores," you mutter, shifting uncomfortably on top of your tauntaun.

"I came across a carcass. Looked a couple of days old," Han says. "Probably killed by one of those wampa. They'll go after anything they can find. Listen, we've placed all our sensors and I'm cold. I'm going back to the base. You two coming?"

"I saw a meteorite come down not far from here, and I want to check it out first. It won't take long," Luke replies.

"What about you?" Han asks you.

**IF YOU STICK WITH LUKE AND TRY TO
FIND THE METEORITE, TURN TO PAGE 66.**

**IF YOU GO WITH HAN TO THE WARM
REBEL BASE, TURN TO PAGE 84.**

"Now hold on," Han says. "I think I've got an idea."

While Han pilots the ship, you and Chewbacca try to fix the hyperdrive. A short while later, the ship is slammed several times. You're afraid it's the Imperials. But no. The Star Destroyers are still after you, but they haven't caught up. The reality is worse.

Han piloted the ship into an asteroid field!

"Han, what are you doing?" Leia cries.

"The Imperials would have to be crazy to follow us in here!" Han declares happily.

Another asteroid slams the ship.

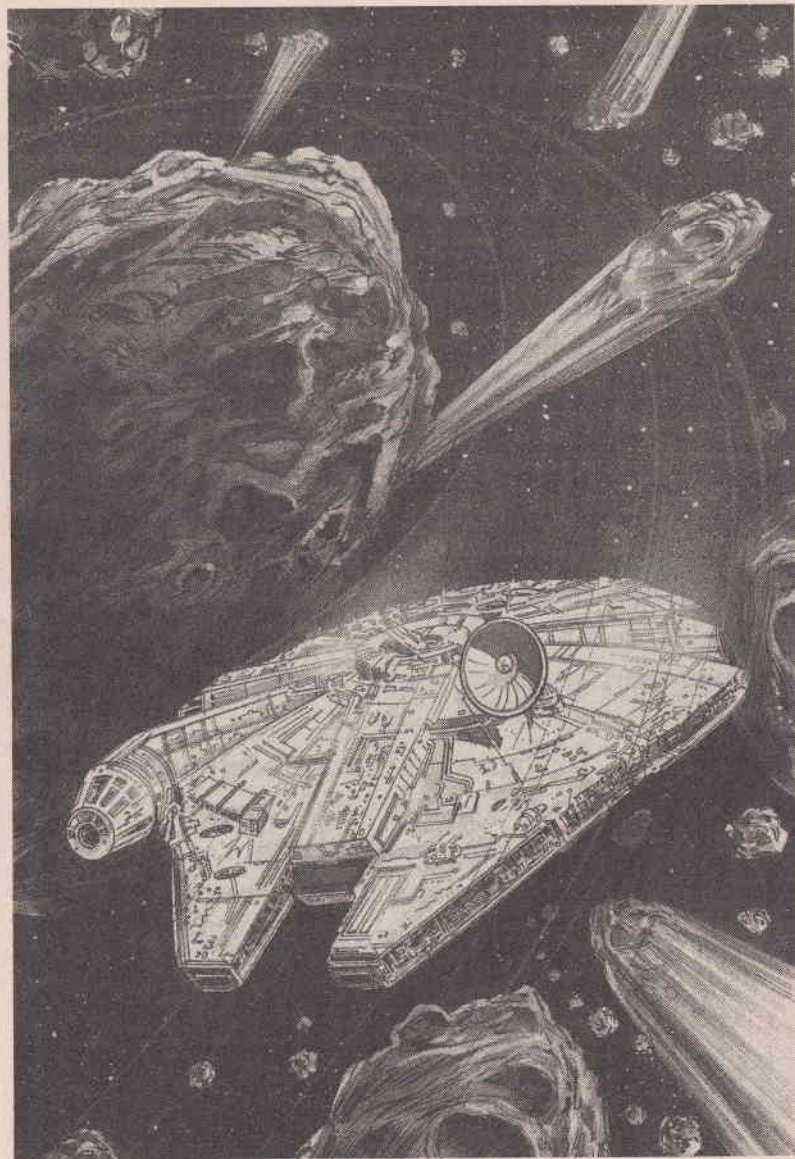
"Han, *you're* crazy!" you shout.

"Trust me!" he replies.

"Sir, the possibility of successfully navigating an asteroid field is—" Threepio begins.

Han turns on him angrily and yells, "Never tell me the odds!"

You shout for Han to watch out. He swerves the ship just in time to avoid an enormous asteroid, hundreds of times larger than the *Falcon* itself. You can see that the TIE fighters have begun to follow the ship into the asteroid field, but their pilots aren't as good as Han, and many of them are destroyed.



You decide to go with Luke. A short time later, the two of you take off in your snowspeeders alongside the other members of Rogue Squadron not involved in the evacuation of the planet. You head out over the icy surface of Hoth. You are amazed by the Imperial walkers, giant armored gunships with long legs walking across the surface of the planet.

"Listen, Rogue Five," Luke tells you over the comlink, "before I forget, I'm glad you came along."

"So am I, Commander," you reply.

"Now let's get them!" Luke cries. You pilot your snowspeeders down to attack the walkers.

The battle is fierce, and the snowspeeders don't do much more than slow the walkers down. Their armor is too tough for your weapons. Several snowspeeders go down under fire, exploding in the snow.

Finally, as the fight grows more desperate, your comlink crackles to life with Luke's voice.

"Lieutenant!" he announces. "I've got an idea! Deploy harpoons into the walkers' legs, then fly in a circle around them, tightening the cable. When you get it tight enough, release the cable and—"

"And they'll trip!" you cry, realizing what Luke's plan means. "Luke, you're a genius! That's so crazy it just might work!"

FIND OUT ON PAGE 108.

"I know just where he is," Leia says. "He's hanging on to something on the underside of Cloud City. He's in pain, but he's hanging on."

Seconds later, you spot Luke hanging upside down from what seems to be a weather vane. You and Lando go to the topside hatch of the *Falcon*. As Han holds the ship steady, you lower Luke inside. He's badly injured, even missing a hand, but you've got him now.

Soon the ship blasts into hyperspace. In no time, you and the others have rejoined the Rebel Alliance. Luke is quickly fitted for a new mechanical hand to replace the one he lost while battling Vader. The battle with the Empire continues.

But that is another story.

THE END

When the Imperial fleet catches up with the *Millennium Falcon*, your loyalty to your friends demands action. But Vader will execute you if you betray him now. When Han, Leia, and Chewie escape, you breathe a sigh of relief. That is, until you discover that the Empire has hired the meanest, nastiest bounty hunters from all over the galaxy to find the ship.

"My Lord," you say to Vader, "why so much trouble over a few Rebels?"

Vader is quiet for a moment. He stares at you.

"Your old friend Skywalker is of particular interest to the Emperor and myself. The Force is strong in him. Far stronger than in you. He will join us, become my apprentice along with you. Otherwise he will die. He is too dangerous to go free. Those friends of his on the *Millennium Falcon* will serve as bait. Once they have been captured, Skywalker will never abandon his friends to death at my hands."

You are horrified at Vader's plans but realize that you can do nothing but wait. Wait for the moment when your actions might save Luke's life. Or the lives of the other Rebels with whom you've become such good friends.

**THINK ABOUT IT SOME
MORE ON PAGE 99.**

"Leia . . . help me!" you say. "I don't want to betray you. But the dark side is so strong!"

"Fight it!" she says. "You have to. Vader will use us to trap Luke and then execute us all. You've got to fight it!"

You try hard. Even as you struggle against the dark side, Han Solo and Chewbacca begin to stir. They wake, and as soon as they see you, they both run to the *Falcon* and grab spare blasters.

"Han, no!" Leia shouts. "Don't do it. It's the dark side. It gets inside a person's spirit. Few are strong enough to resist."

"Then we should shoot now and ask questions later," Solo replies, lifting his blaster.

Chewbacca roars, agreeing with Han.

"We owe our old friend this," Leia says, restraining them.

"Please," you say through gritted teeth. It is so hard to fight against the dark side. You joined Vader to save your own life. You destroyed any hope Calrissian might have had of holding on to Cloud City. But this betrayal is different. If you give in to the dark side now, there will be no way out of the evil for you.

**ARE YOU STRONG ENOUGH TO FIGHT
THE DARK SIDE ON PAGE 57?**

"I'm going to check it out," you say. "I'll call in what I find. In the meantime, we should all assume this thing is the enemy."

Leia glances at you. You realize that you have spoken out of turn. She is in charge, and you should have waited.

"You check in with the medlab and make sure Luke is ready to travel," Leia tells you. "Han, do you mind checking this thing out?"

Han laughs. "You're just trying to keep me around, Princess," he says. "But I'll do it. Strictly self-interest, of course. As long as me and Chewie and the *Falcon* are stuck here, I want to know what's going on."

"Take Chewbacca with you," Leia suggests. "You've got to have somebody to keep you out of trouble."

Finally she turns to Rieekan. "General," she says, "prepare for an evacuation. If this is a probe, we're going to have to get off this planet fast."

What does it look like? Getting us out of here," Lando says.

"Oh, Administrator Calrissian, I knew you were trustworthy!" Threepio says.

"Not so fast, Threepio," Leia says.

Suddenly Chewbacca lunges, grabs Lando by the throat, and begins to choke him. Threepio yells at Chewbacca to stop.

"Chewie!" you shout. "Stop it! This isn't helping!"

"You don't . . . understand!" Lando croaks, barely able to speak. "I had . . . no choice."

"You think we're going to trust you now, after what you did to Han?" Leia demands angrily.

"Chewie, you're going to kill him!" you shout.

Chewbacca roars in agreement.

"There's still . . . time," Lando sputters. "Time . . . to save . . . Han!"

"Let him go, Chewie," Leia says.

Chewbacca obeys immediately.

"If you're lying just to save your own skin—" Leia begins, but Lando interrupts her.

"I'm not. They're loading Han onto Boba Fett's ship, *Slave I*, out on the east platform," he explains. "It's still there."

Chewbacca roars and attacks the stormtroopers with his huge, handcuffed paws.

"Help him!" the dark-skinned government man shouts. His men quickly turn on the stormtroopers. He must not be on the Empire's side after all.

A few seconds later it's over. Leia introduces you to Lando Calrissian, who then orders his men to take the stormtroopers prisoner as he explains that Han has been frozen in carbonite. Then he takes off Chewbacca's handcuffs. C3-PO, strapped to Chewie's back in several pieces, has been complaining all along.

"Lando, what are you doing?" Leia asks.

"What does it look like? We're all getting out of here," Lando says.

"Oh, Administrator Calrissian, I knew you were trustworthy!" Threepio says.

"Not so fast, Threepio," Leia says.

Suddenly Chewbacca lunges, grabs Lando by the throat, and begins to choke him. Threepio yells at Chewbacca, telling him to stop.

"You don't . . . understand!" Lando croaks, barely able to speak. "I had . . . no choice."

GO TO PAGE 14.

"Warmer?" you ask. "No, Luke, that means you're freezing. Fight it!"

"Don't go to sleep!" Han shouts. "Whatever you do, stay awake! Come on, give me a sign, kid!"

Suddenly Han's tauntaun cries out weakly and falls over.

"What now?" Han snaps. "We'll never make it back, the three of us on one tauntaun! Grab Luke's lightsaber. Cut my tauntaun open. Get him in there and keep him warm until we can set up the emergency shelter!"

You're not sure Han's plan is going to work, but you also wonder whether you could survive the trek back to the base on foot.

**IF YOU GO ALONG WITH HAN'S PLAN,
TURN TO PAGE 12.**

**IF YOU ARGUE WITH HAN,
TURN TO PAGE 36.**

"Leia, come quickly!" you shout. "It's Han and Chewie—they've been attacked!"

The ramp opens and Leia runs out, with Threepio clanking behind. She looks at them, looks at you, and then, somehow, as if she too has a talent for the Force, she *knows*.

"Don't lie," she says grimly. "Just do what you came here to do."

Suddenly the guilt nearly overwhelms you. The dark side is strong, but you wonder if your own will is strong enough to overcome it. These are your friends, good people fighting the evil Empire. And now you're betraying them!

**IF YOU TRY TO BREAK FREE OF THE DARK
SIDE, TURN TO PAGE 43.**

**IF YOU TURN THEM IN TO THE EMPIRE,
TURN TO PAGE 52.**



Vader lunges at you again. This time, when you defend yourself, Vader reaches out, grabs you with his powerful grip, and throws you across the chamber. You hit your head as you land and black out.

When you come to, Vader is using the Force to bombard Luke with huge pieces of metal equipment and pipes from all over the chamber. You see that Vader is focused completely on Luke—all his power is being used in the attack. If you leap up and move toward him quickly enough, before he realizes you are awake, perhaps you can defeat him.

Only one chance.

You lift your lightsaber from where it has fallen to the ground. You turn it on. It hums with energy. As quietly as possible, you creep toward Vader, planning to slash him in the back. With every ounce of training Ben and Yoda have given you, you try to use the Force to keep Vader from sensing your attack. This is not an honorable way to win, but you will do anything to save Luke's life. He is your best friend.

Just before you swing the lightsaber at Vader, the Dark Lord turns and slashes at you, then kicks you to the floor.

"I will deal with you next," he says, his voice chilling you to the bone.



You cannot imagine giving up the power of the dark side.

So you send a communication to the nearest Imperial Star Destroyer, and stormtroopers are sent to take Han, Leia, and Chewie into custody.

A week later, Darth Vader calls you to the bridge of his ship.

"A job well done," Vader says. "Just last night, Luke Skywalker attempted to sneak on board this ship and free his friends. My trap worked perfectly. Skywalker is now our prisoner. You are to be rewarded for your part in this victory!"

"What will happen to them now, Master?" you ask. A flicker of your old self still cares about your friends.

"They will be sent to prison in the Imperial Center, of course," Vader replies. "But don't worry about them. You should be more concerned about doing well in your new job."

"New job?" you ask.

"Yes, *General*," Vader replies.

A general! You feel proud, despite having betrayed Luke and the others. The dark side has claimed you completely.

THE END

However, the war against evil is far from over. The Rebel Alliance had to abandon its secret base despite its victory when the Imperial starfleet followed the *Millennium Falcon* to Yavin 4 and launched an offensive that the Rebel fleet could not hope to win.

You are now a member of Rogue Squadron, a division of X-wing fighter pilots hidden at a secret base on the ice planet Hoth. Luke is the squadron leader.

Luke and the other Rebel leaders have realized that the Empire will be searching for you all. As part of the setup for Hoth security, sensors must be hidden all around the Rebel base. Along with Luke and Han Solo, you volunteered to plant these sensors.

You are standing in the hangar bay next to Luke when Han Solo saunters over and interrupts your thoughts.

"Let's go, folks," he says. "It's a little early, but we've got a lot of sensors to place today."

"I'll get the tauntauns saddled," you say.

"Great!" Han cries sarcastically. "We can all work on our suntans. Don't forget the heavy-duty underwear, kids."

A few seconds later, the deck officer returns. "Sir, Commander Skywalker hasn't come in the south entrance either," he says anxiously. "Nobody's heard from him since before you came in."

You and Han stare at each other. "We have to go after him," you say.

Han nods. He turns to the deck officer and asks, "Have the techs got those snowspeeders working? The *Falcon's* in pieces right now."

"We don't have anything that can fly in a Hoth blizzard, sir," the officer replies. "Those winds would smash you down before you got halfway to—"

"All right," Han snaps. "Forget it."

"Tauntauns?" you ask.

"Tauntauns," Han replies.

"But your tauntauns will freeze before the first marker!" the deck officer argues. "Even with insulated suits on, if you end up on foot, you're dead!"

"Maybe," you say. "But if we don't go, Luke will definitely die out there all alone."

**YOU CAN'T LEAVE LUKE OUT IN
THE COLD. TURN TO PAGE 86.**

It's now or never, you think. Tapping into the Force, you focus your mind and imagine a loud bang off to the left.

It worked! Everybody looks to see what made the sound. You raise your handcuffed hands and bring them down hard on the back of a stormtrooper. He goes down in a clatter of armor, and his weapon falls close by. The other stormtroopers are turning and lifting their blasters to fire at you, but you ignore them. You concentrate completely on the fallen blaster, willing it to come to you.

It does! The blaster flies to your hands! Before the stormtroopers fire a single shot, you start blasting.

Chewbacca roars and attacks as well.

"Help the lieutenant!" Lando shouts to his men.

A few seconds later, it's over. Lando orders his men to take the stormtroopers prisoner. He takes off your handcuffs, then Leia's, and finally Chewbacca's.

"Lando, what are you doing?" Leia asks.

"What does it look like? I'm getting us out of here," Lando says.

"Oh, Administrator Calrissian, I knew you were trustworthy!" Threepio says.

"Not so fast, Threepio," Leia says.

Suddenly Chewbacca lunges, and begins to choke Lando.

HURRY TO PAGE 35.

At the last second, you cry out: "Please, stop me!"

Using every ounce of your remaining self-control, you hold the lightsaber back. Together Han and Chewbacca fire their blasters again. Your reflexes, tainted by the dark side, deflect the shots. With one last burst of strength, you throw the lightsaber down. Han fires again, hitting you in the shoulder with a blaster bolt, and you fall.

"One day, I hope you can forgive me," you say as Han and Chewie help you to your feet and lead you away.

"So do we," Leia replies.

You spend the rest of your life as a captive of the Rebellion, trying to overcome the taint of the dark side.

THE END

Han. Chewbacca. Princess Leia. If you turn them in, Vader will use them to get Luke, your best friend since childhood.

"No!" you cry out.

"Fight it!" Leia says.

"I'm . . . trying," you whisper. "But the dark side is . . . strong."

Leia rushes toward you. Han tries to stop her, but he is too late. The dark side surges up inside you. It will be so easy to capture them, you think. Then Vader will give you even more power, and you will be a servant of evil forever.

"I'm sorry," you say weakly.

You bring up your lightsaber to strike Leia. Han shoots you with his blaster, but you deflect the shot with the lightsaber. Chewbacca blasts away as well, but once again, you are too fast for them. You feel the power of the dark side making you even stronger. You lift the lightsaber over your head and are about to slash Leia.

"There are still Jedi Knights, bounty hunter," you say. "The Empire tried to destroy us all, but we have returned!"

Boba Fett fires again, and you block the blasts. He runs toward you, still firing. You dive on the ground, roll behind the block of carbonite—knowing Han can't be hurt inside—and pop up on the other side, with your blaster in one hand and your lightsaber in the other.

With your blaster you hit Fett. He goes down hard.

You turn your attention to the carbonite block and switch on the unit that will release Han. The carbonite melts. In seconds, Han is lying on the ground, moaning, as if he's waking up from a nightmare.

"Leia has been trying to reach you on your com-link," you tell him.

"I turned my comlink off," he says. "I don't want to talk to her anymore. It's bad for my disposition."

"Well, if you had it on," you say, angry with Han, "you'd know that the Princess is concerned about Luke. Nobody knows where he is."

"What do you mean, nobody knows?" Han says, suddenly serious. "He was only a couple of minutes behind us when we rode in. That was more than two hours ago!"

"My point exactly," you say.

"Deck officer!" Han yells. "Deck officer!"

The officer rushes over. "Yes sir, Captain Solo?"

"Has Commander Skywalker come back?" Han asks sharply.

"Commander Skywalker hasn't come through the main shield door. It's possible he came in through the south entrance," the deck officer replies.

"It's possible?" Han yells. "It's possible?"

"Why don't you go and find out?" you suggest to the officer.

"It's already dark, and getting colder every minute," Han adds angrily.

"Luke asked me to make sure you got off Hoth safely," you explain. "Is he all right? Luke, I mean. Did the snowspeeders take the walkers down?"

"Most of the walkers were destroyed. Luke is on his way back to the transport bay," Leia explains. "But I'm not going anywhere. Not yet. Take Three-pio if you want."

"With all due respect, Princess Leia," C-3PO huffs, "Master Luke ordered me to remain with you at all times."

"We've lost two more snowspeeders, Princess," the controller reports.

"Recall them all," Leia orders. "Have the pilots get to their fighters. This is it—prepare to evacuate!"

"Leia," you say, more forcefully this time. "We have to go now. You're too important to the Rebellion to put yourself at any extra risk."

Suddenly Han appears behind you.

"Me and Chewie want to get the *Falcon* out of here right away. But first we're gonna make sure you get on that transport. Aren't we, kid?"

"That's right, Han," you agree. "Princess?"

Leia shakes her head and smiles at Han. "You mean you and the Wookiee actually fixed that flying bucket of bolts you call a ship?"

More stormtroopers arrive. You have no choice but to run for the landing bay and the *Falcon*. On the way, Lando stops and hits a button on the public-address system.

"Attention, all Cloud City personnel!" he says. "This is Lando Calrissian. The Empire has taken control of the city. I am advising you all to leave before more troops arrive."

Then you're running full speed for the *Falcon*. Along with Lando, Leia, Chewbacca, and the droids, you reach the ship and take off from Cloud City.

But before you get too far away, you feel a presence—a familiar voice reaching out to you in the Force. You glance up at Leia. From the look in her eyes, you can see that she feels it, too.

"Luke!" the two of you say simultaneously.

"What?" Lando asks, startled.

"It's Luke!" you say. "We've got to go get him."

"But you said he could—" Lando starts.

"Never mind what I said!" you cry. "Turn this thing around! We've got to get him out of there!"

"But we don't even know where we're going!" Lando argues.

"I know just where he is," Leia says. "Somehow he fell down to the underside of Cloud City. He's in pain, but he's hanging on."

"But he can't hang on much longer, Lando!" you shout. "Turn around!"

"Okay, okay!" Lando says. Chewbacca roars in approval as the ship turns back to Cloud City.

Seconds later, you spot Luke hanging upside down from what seems to be a weather vane. You and Lando go to the topside hatch of the *Falcon*. As Chewbacca holds the ship steady, you lower Luke inside. He's badly injured and missing a hand, but you've got him now.

Soon the ship blasts into hyperspace. In no time, you and the others rejoin the Rebel Alliance. Eventually Luke is fitted for a new mechanical hand. While he and Leia stay behind to help rebuild the Rebellion, you join Lando and Chewbacca to search the galaxy for Boba Fett and Han's carbonite-frozen body. When you find him, you'll call the others, and then it will be time to rescue Han Solo.

But that is another story.

THE END



It isn't long before Han and Chewbacca report back to say that they have found and destroyed an Imperial probe droid. Immediately the evacuation begins. Luke, emerging from the healing fluid of a bacta tank, senses the fear and activity.

"What is it?" he asks.

"The Imperials have found us," you tell him.

"That's going to change things," he says, sighing.

"Rogue Squadron is going to protect the evac ships as they leave the planet. But for now, the majority of our forces are on the ground or in snowspeeders. The Imperials are sure to use walkers," you say.

"No question," Luke agrees. "And we don't have time to waste. I'm going to take command of the Rogue's flying snowspeeders. If you want to join me, you can. Otherwise you could help with the evacuation. Make sure Leia gets off the planet safely, maybe fly one of the X-wings and guard the transport ships."

"Get outta here, Lando. You too, kid," Han growls. "I'm in a world of hurt and I don't need to be reminded who put me there."

"Listen, all of you, we're short on time," you snap.

"That's for sure," Han agrees. "Vader wants us dead."

"You don't know what you're talking about," Lando argues. "Vader doesn't want you at all. He's after somebody named Skywalker."

"Luke!" Leia gasps.

"Yes," you say. "You're all bait. That's why we've got to get out of here now."

"Han, are you up to it?" Lando asks, going to his old friend and offering to help him up.

"You picked a heck of a time for a jailbreak," Han says. "Couldn't we have done this *before* the torture chamber?"

"They were watching you too closely, and Lando, too," you explain. "But we've got to go now!"

The door hisses open, and you blast the stormtroopers waiting outside. Chewie and Lando help Han, and Threepio brings up the rear as everybody runs for the landing bay.

"I'll stay with Luke," you say. "No one should have to freeze alone."

"Well, hurry up," Han says. "Looks like a bad storm's coming in."

Then Han leaves, trotting across the ice on his tauntaun. You and Luke ride toward the spot where Luke saw the meteorite fall. It is growing dark, however, and soon you won't be able to see a thing.

"Hey, Luke," you call as you catch up. "It's getting colder by the second. Don't you think we ought to go back?"

Your tauntaun starts to stamp its feet nervously.

"I guess you're right. We won't be able to see each other if it gets any darker," Luke says. "Let's go."

Then his tauntaun starts to act up, too.

"All right, baby," Luke chides. "We're going home now. Calm down! What's gotten into you? Do you smell something?"

There's a sudden roar behind you. You turn as the wampa ice beast slams a huge hand into you, knocking you from your tauntaun. The last thing you see is the beast slashing Luke's tauntaun with its claws, then lifting Luke from the snow.

At first light, you climb to the top of the gulley and try to get your bearings. It's hopeless. You have no idea where you are. You spend several days wandering in the jungle, losing track of time. Eventually you come upon a small hut. You realize it must be the dwelling of the little alien you and Luke met upon landing. When you look inside, the hut is empty, so you sit and wait.

After dark, you see the little alien shuffling across the jungle floor toward you. You jump up, drawing your lightsaber.

"Stop right there!" you shout. "Where is my friend?"

The alien looks up at you with its big eyes. It shakes its head of thin, brittle white hair and sighs heavily.

"Sit down," the alien says. "Gone is young Skywalker, his friends to save from the Empire."

"What?" you cry. "Without me?"

"Search for you he did," the creature says. It comes to stand looking up at you. "Told him not to worry I did, that train you I would."

Faster than the wink of an eye, Han whips out his blaster and fires two shots at Darth Vader. But, incredibly, Vader raises his hand and deflects the deadly attack. Just as quickly, Han's blaster is ripped from his hand and flies across the room—straight into Vader's grasp.

"We would be honored if you would join us," Vader says, nodding to all of you.

Han gives Lando an angry glare.

"I had no choice," Calrissian says. You stare at him. "They arrived right before you did. I'm sorry."

"I'm sorry too, *friend*," Han snaps, furious at Lando.

Vader turns his head to look at you. You can feel that he senses your Jedi training. But you know your power could catch him off guard should you suddenly attack him with it.

IF YOU ATTACK VADER, TURN TO PAGE 74.

IF YOU SURRENDER, TURN TO PAGE 102.

"Lando," you whisper. "What is it?"

"Oh no . . .," Lando says, then mutters to you, "It's the carbon-freezing chamber. We flash-freeze certain products in carbonite to preserve them. Makes them easier to transport. I knew Vader was planning to use it on this Skywalker person, but now it looks like they're going to test it on Han!"

"No!" you shout.

Before you can do anything, Darth Vader enters the room with Boba Fett.

"Lord Vader!" Boba Fett says angrily. "What if Solo doesn't survive the freezing process? He's of no use to me dead!"

"The Empire will compensate you if he dies," Vader replies. "Now stand aside, bounty hunter. Guards, put Solo in the chamber!"

Chewbacca wails and Leia calls out in horror as Han is dragged away and dropped into the carbon-freezing chamber. It takes only a moment. Han is pulled out of the chamber encased in a huge block of carbon. He's frozen solid. But the side panel on the block indicates that Han is still alive!

"Thank goodness," Leia whispers.

"Lord Vader," a stormtrooper says, "a single X-wing fighter is approaching Cloud City now."

LUKE! GO TO PAGE 78.

Suddenly you hear fluttering sounds on the hull of the ship. On the comlink, you call Han.

"Hey, Han, what's all that noise out there?"

"Mynocks, kid," Han replies. "Big, nasty, slimy pests who'll chew the heck out of the power cables if we don't get them off. Should only take a minute."

Outside, Han and Chewie start to fire at the mynocks. Their blasts hit the walls of the cavern. It starts to quake again, as if in reaction to the blasts. Suddenly you know why.

"This cave is alive!" you shout. If you don't get out of the "cave" right away, whatever kind of monster you're all inside might just swallow you down! You're tempted to take off now, without waiting for the others. Every second counts!

**IF YOU TAKE OFF WITHOUT THE OTHERS,
TURN TO PAGE 115.**

**IF YOU WAIT FOR YOUR FRIENDS,
TURN TO PAGE 93.**

Suddenly, in the distance, you hear the sounds of battle. Snowspeeders fire their blasters. Imperial walkers retaliate with thundering explosions.

"They're here," Luke says. He looks at you for a decision.

If you go with Luke and fly a snowspeeder, you can buy the rest of the Rebellion more time to escape. But if you fly with Rogue Squadron, you will actually be protecting the escaping transports, not to mention Princess Leia, and you may have a better chance to survive the evacuation of Hoth yourself.

**IF YOU GO WITH LUKE AND FLY A
SNOWSPEEDER AGAINST THE WALKERS,
TURN TO PAGE 40.**

**IF YOU DECIDE TO HELP WITH THE
EVACUATION, TURN TO PAGE 81.**

"I'll be back!" you cry, as you rush from the ice cave.

At first the wampa runs after you. Then it seems to tire of the chase and returns to its cave. It still has Luke, after all, and he's a fresh meal.

Your whole body burns with fear and excitement after your narrow escape. But only a minute passes before you start to feel how cold it really is on the surface of Hoth at night.

Your mind races. If you can get help in time, Luke may still be saved! You reach for the comlink at your belt. Your fingers are so cold that it's hard to grip, but you finally press the right button and try to call in to the base.

"Echo Three to Echo Base, come in," you pant. "It's . . . it's an emergency. Freezing out here . . . Luke captured by wampa. Need help."

You trudge through the snow, praying that someone at the base will hear you and get to your location fast enough to save Luke.

"Echo Three to Echo Base," you try again. "Please come in."

Then Han does the impossible. He actually lands the *Falcon* on the rear section of the Imperial Star Destroyer's bridge. A short time later, when the Destroyer dumps its garbage, Han releases the landing claw and allows the *Falcon* to float away inside the cloud of trash.

"This is great, Han," you say. "But we've still got to find a safe port to repair the hyperdrive."

"We're in the Anoat System," Leia adds. "Not much around here."

Han is quiet for a moment. Then he says, "Lando!"

"The Lando System?" Leia asks.

"Lando's not a system," Han replies. "He's a man. Lando Calrissian. He's a card player, gambler . . . a scoundrel, you'll like him."

Calrissian is apparently an old friend of Han's, from whom Han won the *Millennium Falcon* in a card game. He runs a gas mining operation on Cloud City, a huge floating city. It's far away, and it will take some time, but the *Falcon* can make it there.

"Can you trust this Calrissian?" you ask.

"Of course not," Han says. "But he's our only shot."

It's probably suicide, but you have to give your powers a chance. Reaching out into the Force, using it as much as you can, you move swiftly for your lightsaber. It erupts in a line of deadly light as you leap up onto the table. In three strides, you have reached Darth Vader. Before Leia can even shout for you to stop, you slash at him. He doesn't even have his lightsaber drawn.

But the instant your lightsaber reaches Vader, his own saber flashes to life and stops your blade from striking its target.

Then you are face-to-face with Darth Vader, the Dark Lord of the Sith, a powerful Jedi Knight enslaved by the dark side of the Force. You against him. One on one.

Of course . . . you lose.

Stormtroopers are summoned to transport you to the spice mines of Kessel, where you will spend the rest of your days paying for your hasty actions.

THE END

You hesitate. If you agree, you will live and learn more about the use of the Force. Even if it is with the dark side, that training may help you to eventually betray Vader and destroy him, maybe even the Empire itself. But if you die, you won't be able to help the Rebellion at all, and you'll never see your friends again.

On the other hand, before he died, Ben warned you and Luke about the dangers of the dark side. Darth Vader himself was once a good and noble man, but the dark side changed him, tainted him forever.

"Your silence angers me," Vader says. "I am not a patient man."

**IF YOUR ANSWER IS NO,
TURN TO PAGE 24.**

**IF YOU AGREE TO BECOME VADER'S
APPRENTICE, TURN TO PAGE 20.**

"Whoa, that was close," you say. "Now what?"

"Now . . . we eat something," Luke says.

Slowly you both nibble on what little rations of food you have salvaged. Luke looks around nervously.

"What is it, Luke?" you ask.

"I don't know," he says. "I just feel like . . . feel like . . ."

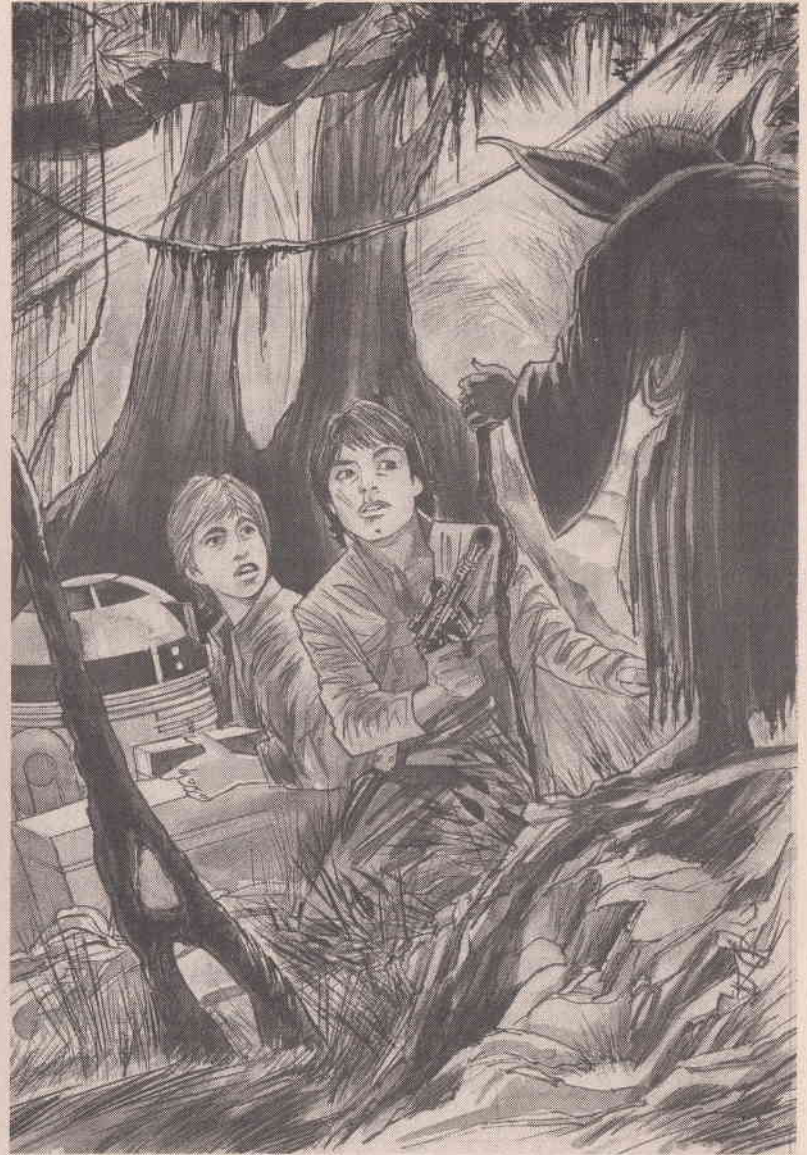
"Feel like what, stranger?" a tiny, scratchy voice comes from behind.

"What the . . . ?" you shout.

A small, wrinkled green alien has appeared behind you. Its sudden arrival frightens you. You can try to regain your calm or retreat farther into the jungle to watch the thing and make sure it isn't hostile.

IF YOU RUN, TURN TO PAGE 96.

**IF YOU STAY CALM,
TURN TO PAGE 106.**



"Perfect timing," Vader replies. "I will go and meet Skywalker myself. Reset the chamber so it's ready for him. He will share Solo's fate. Calrissian, the others are yours!"

Lando and his Cloud City security people begin to escort you back to your chambers, along with several stormtroopers. With Vader gone to meet Luke, this could be your best chance to escape. You could try to grab one of the guards' weapons. But perhaps you should consult with Leia before you act. She always has very good ideas. . . .

**IF YOU TRY TO ESCAPE NOW,
TURN TO PAGE 55.**

**IF YOU WAIT SO YOU CAN PLAN WITH
LEIA, LOOK AT PAGE 79.**

You can't be sure when you'll have such a good chance to escape again. But fighting Vader is too much of a risk without backup. You decide to consult Leia before you act.

Suddenly a figure appears down the hall. The stormtroopers turn and fire. You recognize the new arrival immediately.

"Luke, get back!" you shout.

"It's a trap!" Leia adds.

Luke disappears, thanks to your warning. The stormtroopers rush you along the corridor again.

"Keep quiet and stay ready," Lando whispers. "We'll have to move fast."

"What's that mean?" Leia whispers back.

Before he can answer, a door to the left slides open to reveal a Cloud City security team.

"Stormtroopers, hold it right there or we fire!" the head of the team orders. "Hand your weapons over now!"

The stormtroopers, taken completely by surprise, surrender their weapons to Lando's men.

Lando takes off your handcuffs, then Leia's, and finally Chewbacca's. C-3PO is strapped to Chewie's back.

"Lando, what are you doing?" Leia asks.

FIND OUT ON PAGE 45.

You look around. Everyone seems all right.

"Well, that's going to be a problem," Leia says, her sarcasm obvious.

"They must've hit the power generators," you add.

Leia sighs and looks at Han. "Looks like I'm with you, flyboy," she says.

Han picks up his comlink and contacts the last transport, which is waiting for Leia. "Transport, this is Solo," he says. "You'd better take off right away. The south tunnel's collapsed and we can't get to you. I'll get the Princess out of here in the *Falcon*."

"I copy, Solo," the transport pilot replies. "Move fast! You're only one step ahead of the stormtroopers! And good luck!"

"I get nervous when people start wishing me luck," Han grumbles. He turns to you. "What about you, kid? I know you probably want to get to your X-wing, but if you backtrack, you'll probably run into stormtroopers. Want to come with us?"

**IF YOU GO WITH HAN AND LEIA,
TURN TO PAGE 21.**

**IF YOU TRY TO MAKE IT BACK TO YOUR
X-WING, TURN TO PAGE 114.**

"I'd better help with the evacuation," you tell Luke. "Princess Leia is too important to the Rebellion, and I'll feel better knowing she's getting off the planet safely." Luke nods and moves out with the other pilots who will be flying snowspeeders against the Imperial troops that are now landing all over Hoth. Soon the Rebel Command Center comes under attack, but the defensive shields hold up for the moment.

You help load supplies and personnel on board the transports. When half the transports are gone and the Imperial attacks are growing worse, you realize it's time to get Leia out. You find her in the Command Center, barking orders as though she was born to command. Which, of course, she was.

"Get the wounded aboard the transports!" she shouts. "Consolidate all remaining units in the central defensive arc!"

"Yes, Your Highness," the Command Center controller replies.

"Leia?" you say quietly, not wanting to distract her but knowing it's time to get going.

"Why aren't you in an X-wing, Lieutenant?" she asks.

EXPLAIN YOURSELF ON PAGE 60.

"TIE fighters!" Han says angrily. "They waited for us, and we can't jump to hyperspace in this asteroid field!"

Han does some fancy flying, and in moments the *Falcon* is out of the asteroid field. He and Chewie start preparing the ship for hyperspace. But when Chewie hits the switch, the hyperdrive makes some nasty sounds and just dies.

"Uh-oh," Han mumbles.

Chewbacca roars. Han glances down at the ship's scanners.

"Imperial Star Destroyer, coming straight at us!" Han says excitedly.

"And this is good news?" you ask.

"It is when we can't jump to hyperspace," Han replies.

"You're not making any sense, Solo!" Leia cries.

"Sir, I'm afraid I don't understand—" C-3PO begins.

"Somebody switch him off if he opens his mouth again," Han roars. "We're only going to get one chance. Chewie, ready the landing claw!"

"Landing claw?" you and Leia exclaim.

WHAT? TURN TO PAGE 73.

Luke turns to stare at the little alien. He takes a step back toward him. Your mouth hangs open as you look at the creature. Then a ghostly voice rises from the air around you.

"He will learn, Master. Both of them will be great Jedi one day."

"Ben?" you and Luke cry at the same moment.

"How?" Luke asks. Then he looks at the small alien. "Yoda!" he cries. "You're Yoda!"

Then it begins. Days of training, of learning about the Force and about the dark side. "A Jedi," Yoda says, "uses the Force for defense, never for attack."

After several days, Yoda takes you and Luke to the mouth of a dark cave that he says is a realm of the dark side. A domain of evil. Yoda instructs you both to enter separately. Such evil emanates from the cave that you are terrified of going inside.

**IF YOU GO INTO THE CAVE,
TURN TO PAGE 10.**

**IF YOU REFUSE TO ENTER,
TURN TO PAGE 90.**

You return to the base with Han. Shortly after you reach it, night falls. Outside, the wind whips ice across the surface of Hoth, and the temperature has dropped so low that the air is barely breathable. Nothing could survive out there very long.

As you change clothes in your quarters, there is a knock at the door.

"Enter!" you call.

The door slides open to reveal Princess Leia on the other side. Behind her, C-3PO and R2-D2 stand in the corridor.

"Princess!" you say. "Have you come to join me for dinner?"

But even as you ask, you notice that Leia looks worried.

"Have you seen Luke since you came back in?" she asks.

"No," you reply. "We didn't come back together. He wanted to check out some meteorite he saw come down. He's probably with Han."

"I've been trying to reach Han, but he doesn't answer. I haven't spoken to anyone who's seen Luke since this morning," Leia says, with concern. "I have a meeting right now. Could you . . . ?"

The door slides open again, this time for Lando and some Cloud City security guards.

"Well, look what just slithered in," Leia says angrily.

"Listen to me, all of you. We're short on time!" Lando snaps.

"Get out of here, Lando," Han says.

Chewbacca growls in agreement, but Lando won't leave.

"Shut up and listen!" he says. "Vader's agreed to turn Leia, the lieutenant, and Chewie over to me. They have to remain here in Cloud City, but at least they'll be safe."

"What about Han?" Leia asks.

"Vader's giving him to that bounty hunter, Boba Fett," Lando explains. "Apparently, Han, you still owe Jabba the Hutt a lot of money."

"Vader's not going to let us go," you say. "He wants us all dead."

"You're wrong," Lando insists. "Vader doesn't care about any of you. He's after somebody named Skywalker."

"Of course," you agree. "It's all a trap for Luke, to lead him here."

A short time later, you and Han ride your tauntauns out of the base into the raging blizzard. Between the snow and the dark it's hard to see anything. You try to reach out with what little skill in the Force you have learned.

After three minutes, you can't feel your hands, feet, or face anymore. Every time you cry out Luke's name, your throat feels frozen.

"Luke!" you shout, ignoring the cold.

"Tauntauns aren't doing too well," Han tells you.

He's right. The tauntauns are wheezing and slowing down in the cold. They won't survive for long.

"Luke!" Han cries. "Luke!"

Then you sense something to your left. You turn. Dimly you make out a spot on the ice darker than the rest. A spot that doesn't move.

"Luke!" you shout.

Both you and Han jump off your tauntauns and run to Luke's side. He's delirious, thinking you or Han must be his old friend Ben Kenobi.

"Luke. Speak to me, kid," Han says.

"Get him to sit up," you suggest.

"So cold, so cold," Luke mumbles. "Warmer now, want to go to sleep."



Suddenly the Command Center is rocked by Imperial walker blasts. Sparks fly and lights dim. The defensive shields are taking a beating.

"Princess, Imperial stormtroopers have entered the base!" the controller shouts. "And all but one of the transports have evacuated."

"Leia, that's it," Han insists. "It's over—we've got to go."

For a moment Leia pauses. Then she shakes her head.

"Controller, give the evacuation code. All troops disengage! Then get to the final transport, all of you!" she orders. She turns to you and Han. "All right, let's go."

With C-3PO clanking behind, you and Han rush Leia down a corridor. Han has her by the arm, but Leia pulls away.

"Han, will you kindly stop trying to yank my arm off? I'm hurrying!" she snaps.

"Nice, Princess," Han replies. "You try and do somebody a favor, and what d'you get?"

Before Leia can answer, there is a huge explosion as the defensive shields are again hit. The whole tunnel shakes. The ceiling just ahead of you crashes down, blocking your way.

"Han! Leia!" you shout. "Are you all right?"

HURRY TO PAGE 80.

"I don't want to see Calrissian again until all of this is finished," he says.

Lando starts to struggle, and a stormtrooper steps forward quickly and knocks him out. He slumps into your arms. You help the stormtroopers carry him off to a cell.

Once you have him locked away, the stormtroopers leave. Calrissian wakes up, groggy.

"Hey," he says. "Listen, you can't do this. Han's a pain in the neck, but he's my friend. And if this Skywalker guy is a friend of yours . . . we just can't let them walk into this trap."

You pause. Calrissian is right, but you don't yet have the power to take Vader on. In a moment of honesty you realize that you may never have that power. You may have given yourself to the dark side forever and still not have the strength to overcome Darth Vader. The thought makes you sick.

**IF YOU IGNORE LANDO'S PLEA FOR HELP,
TURN TO PAGE 100.**

**IF YOU AGREE TO HELP LANDO,
TURN TO PAGE 105.**

"No," you say firmly. "I don't want to go in there. I'd rather go up against a whole platoon of stormtroopers—even Darth Vader himself—than go in there. There's something so evil in there . . . I just can't."

Luke looks at you. "What?" He's surprised. "But if you want to be a Jedi . . ."

"Maybe I don't want to be a Jedi badly enough, old buddy," you say. "Maybe I belong in the cockpit of an X-wing with the rest of Rogue Squadron. This is your destiny, Luke, not mine. You were always more of a natural than I was."

"No shame there is in knowing your limits," Yoda says. "To the Rebellion you should return."

When you come to, both you and Luke are hanging upside down inside a huge cave. Your legs are encased in ice. You can't move them at all. Luke's still unconscious, and there are nasty bruises on his face where the wampa struck him.

"Luke, wake up," you whisper. "We've got to get out of here!"

Luke's eyes flicker open. Quickly he takes in the situation. "We haven't got much time," he says. "I'm sure the wampa had the tauntauns for dinner, but that means we're dessert." He reaches to his side for his lightsaber, but it's gone.

"Where . . . ?" he says, glancing around.

"There!" you shout. Deep in the cave, you hear the wampa stir.

The lightsaber is stuck in the snow and ice almost a meter away. Without it, there's no way you can free yourselves from the ice fast enough to escape. You stretch out and try to reach it, but it's too far away—there's no chance you'll get it.

"The Force," Luke whispers. Deeper in the cave, but closer than before, the wampa roars once more. "We can use the Force, like Ben taught us," Luke insists. "Help me. Together we can grab it."

When Luke comes out of the cave, he looks pale. He tells you that he has failed also but does not reveal what he saw inside the cave. After that, you never again discuss what happened there.

Later, during a training exercise, Luke cries out and holds a hand to his head.

"What is it?" you ask.

"I saw a city in the clouds," he says.

"Hmm," Yoda says. "Friends you have there?"

Luke nods and turns to you. "It's Han and Leia and the others," he says. He looks at Yoda. "They were in pain. What does it mean?"

"It is the future you see," Yoda says.

"Future?" Luke asks. "Will they die?"

"Difficult to tell," Yoda replies. "Always in motion is the future."

"We have to go to them, Luke," you say.

"You act in haste," Yoda says. "All calm, all wisdom, is lost. Decide you must how to serve them best," Yoda explains. "If you leave now, help them you could. But you would destroy all for which they have fought and suffered."

"We have to go," Luke says.

"Han! Leia! Get in here!" you scream.

You fire up the *Falcon's* engines as Han, Leia, and Chewbacca scramble inside. Chewie roars as he hits the controls to close the ramp. Time to go.

"Slide over, kid!" Han snaps. You move. You're a good pilot, but Han is the best there is!

"Look, the cave entrance!" you shout.

The open space ahead has begun to grow smaller.

"We're inside some kind of beast," Han explains.

"If we don't get out of here, it's gonna swallow us whole. And I don't want to be dessert."

The huge creature's jagged teeth are sweeping down, narrowing your exit. Han turns the ship sideways. You barely slide through the opening before the creature's mouth closes. The thing thrusts forward, trying to bite at the escaping *Falcon*. But it's too late. You've made it!

"Only you, Solo, could pick a monster's stomach to park in," Leia says, smiling, as relieved as you are to still be alive.

"Look, I got us out, didn't I?" Han replies, even as he swerves the ship around asteroids fast enough to make you dizzy.

Suddenly an alarm goes off in the cockpit.

Later that day, Yoda uses his power in the Force to raise both of your X-wing fighters from the swamp. With R2-D2's help, you and Luke repair both ships. Soon you launch from Dagobah, with only the Force and Luke's instincts to lead you to where your friends are in danger.

Eventually you come to the planet Bespin, which does, as Luke predicted, have a floating city in its atmosphere—Cloud City, where they mine gases from the air. Both your fighters are allowed to land. Disembarking, you look around curiously.

"Everything seems quiet," you tell Luke. "I don't see any Imperial troops or ships at all."

"Too quiet," Luke says. "Our friends are here, and so is Vader. I'm going to face him, old friend. If I die, it will be up to you to get the others away safely."

**IF YOU GO TO SAVE THE OTHERS,
TURN TO PAGE 16.**

**IF YOU GO WITH LUKE TO BATTLE VADER,
TURN TO PAGE 31.**

"No!" Vader shouts. "Do not fire. I sense . . . something in this Rebel. You are a friend of Skywalker's, aren't you? I recognize you from your unfortunate visit to our Death Star."

If Vader is willing to talk to you, then shooting at the stormtroopers would be foolish. You leave your blaster where it is.

"Yes," you say. "Luke Skywalker is my friend."

"Friends are for the weak," Vader proclaims. "The powerful have only allies and enemies."

Then Darth turns to the stormtroopers. "Go after the others. Bring me any survivors."

They do not argue. A moment later, you are alone with Darth Vader.

"Obi-Wan Kenobi began your instruction in the Force," Vader says. "As he did for me. But I learned that the real power of the Force lies in its dark side. I can teach you all that I know. Will you become my apprentice?"

TURN TO PAGE 75.

"Luke, get to cover!" you shout. "There might be more of them!"

You run off into the jungle, pulling out your lightsaber. You don't turn it on—if the small alien is not alone, you don't want to identify your position. You try to circle around and crawl up a small hill to look for Luke. You're fairly certain that he did not run after you.

To your surprise, you realize you aren't even looking at the same clearing. Somehow, while running, you've lost your way and your sense of direction. The jungle all looks the same. Now you're not sure where you are.

"Great!" you mutter. "Just great. Luke!" Your shout echoes through the jungle.

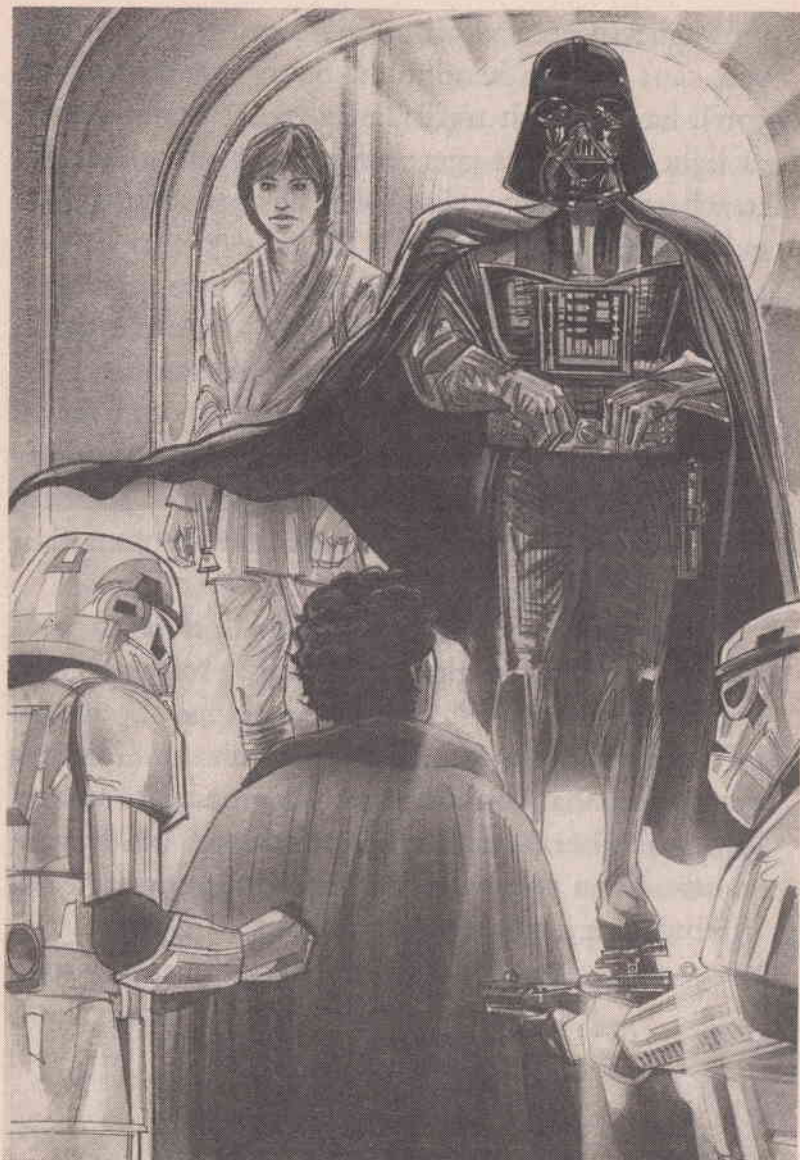
From far away, you're not sure what direction, you hear Luke calling your name. You start back down the hill, but your foot catches on a thick vine. You stumble forward and start to roll. Before you can stop, you tumble into a deep gulley and fall through vines and branches to the floor twenty feet below.

As you get to your feet, you stare up at the high walls of the gulley and realize you're going to have to climb out.

You begin your climb, but it's growing dark and you can't see the handholds. Soon you realize that you'll have to wait until daylight, or whatever kind of light this planet gets, before trying to climb the treacherous gulley walls. You'll have to sleep in the gulley for the night.

During the night, you're awakened by a soft touch on your face. You open your eyes to see the thick, strong strands of a spiderweb close to your face. You try to get up, but something is holding you down! Then you see it—past the webbing, a huge, knobby spider is trying to build its web around you. You may be its next meal! You strain against the webbing, but it doesn't yield.

Fortunately, your hand is webbed close to your hip, where your lightsaber hangs. You grab the lightsaber and flick it on, slashing through enough of the webbing so that you can break out. The spider notices that you are free and comes in to attack. You strike her with the lightsaber and kill her instantly. Then you sit awake until morning to make sure nothing else sneaks up on you.



And yet part of you doesn't want to save them. Part of you doesn't want Luke to become Vader's apprentice. These thoughts disturb and shame you, but you can't seem to get rid of them. The dark side is growing in you.

Then the day arrives when Boba Fett, the most dangerous bounty hunter in the galaxy, reports that he's located the *Falcon*. According to Boba Fett, the *Falcon* is on course for Cloud City. It should be simple for you and Vader to arrive there before them and lay the perfect trap.

Upon arriving at Cloud City, the stormtroopers drag its baron-administrator, Lando Calrissian, to see Darth Vader. Calrissian struggles with the stormtroopers and mutters angrily at Boba Fett.

"Calm down, Calrissian," Vader says. "If you do as I say, your precious Cloud City will be left alone, and when we are through, you have my word that the Empire will not disturb you again."

"I'm not sure I believe your promises, Vader," Calrissian says.

"You have little choice in the matter," Vader answers. "Your friend Captain Solo is coming to seek your aid. You will do nothing but greet your friend and then bring him here."

You turn your back on Lando and walk out. To defy Darth Vader would mean your death, and you are not prepared to sacrifice your life when you still might be able to help your friends by staying alive.

Less than an hour later, the *Millennium Falcon* arrives at Cloud City. You are in the communications center when Han requests permission to land.

"Now look!" Han barks at the Cloud City controller over the comlink. "I'm only going to say this one more time. I do not have a landing permit! I'm trying to reach Lando Calrissian. This is the *Millennium Falcon*. Check it out with Lando!"

The controller glances nervously at Vader, then replies: "I heard you the first time, sir, and I'm telling you, there's no Calrissian here."

"What are you talking about?" Han shouts. "It says on the log that he's the administrator there."

"The log is mistaken," the controller says.

"The log is . . . well, who is the administrator, then?" Han asks, obviously furious.

"Who is . . . um . . ." The controller fumbles for an answer. "Why, I am, sir," he says at last.

Over the comlink, you can hear Leia tell Han, "There's something very wrong about this."

"No problem," you say. "I'm sure Han is tinkering with the *Falcon* again. I'll see if he knows where Luke is."

"We will accompany you," C-3PO says.

You hurry off while the droids hustle to keep up. Threepio is constantly complaining, as always, and Artoo beeps angrily at him.

"Don't you try to blame me, Artoo! I didn't actually ask you to turn on the heating system. I merely commented that it was freezing in the Princess's chamber," Threepio says.

Artoo beeps and tweedles a response.

"I really don't know *how* we're going to dry out all her clothes," Threepio says sadly.

As Artoo argues with Threepio, you tune out their conversation. Soon you enter the hangar. Across the bay you see Chewbacca on top of the *Falcon* and Han Solo standing under the ship.

"You took *what* apart?" Han yells up to Chewie. "What are you doing fine-tuning the hyperdrive now? Look at that mess. Are you crazy?"

As Chewbacca growls an angry response, you approach Han. He sees you coming with the droids and spins around to confront you.

"Now what?" he barks.

You realize it would be suicide to challenge Vader. Throwing your life away won't help your friends. You surrender along with Han, Leia, and Chewbacca. The four of you are taken to a cell, where you find C-3PO's parts. Chewbacca goes about putting the droid back together as best he can.

A short time later, stormtroopers come in and drag Han out. You try to stop them, but Leia warns you to stay back.

"They have blasters, Lieutenant," she says after Han has been taken. "And they won't hesitate to use them if they have to."

After a time, the stormtroopers drag Han back into the cell. He falls to the floor when they release him.

"Han!" Leia shouts.

"What happened?" you ask.

Chewbacca roars and even Threepio, only half assembled, clucks with worry.

"Trust me on this one," Han replies. "You don't want to visit Vader's torture chamber."

"Torture?" Leia cries. "Han, why would they torture you? There's nothing you can tell them."

"I don't know," Han says. "They never even asked me any questions."

"Let's move!" Leia says. She and Chewbacca pick up blasters the stormtroopers have dropped and turn to go back down the hallway.

You follow her at a run, and so does Lando. On the way, you run into R2-D2, who arrived at Cloud City with Luke. Now that Luke has gone off to fight Darth Vader, you realize you must bring Artoo with you. He follows along as fast as he can. He and C-3PO bicker as usual, though you know they are glad to see each other again.

Unfortunately, when you arrive at the east platform, Boba Fett's ship is already taking off. You fire uselessly as it flies away.

"I'm sorry, Leia," Lando says. "But if we move fast, we might be able to catch them. My people have repaired the *Millennium Falcon*."

"What about Luke?" Leia asks.

"Leia," you say, "I've known Luke my whole life. Believe me when I say he can take care of himself. And if *he* can't, there's nothing we can do against Vader. We've got to help Han."

Then you hear it. In the distance, someone is calling your name. Then Luke's name. Too weak to do more than roll over, you stare at Luke, whose eyes are closed. You worry that he may already be dead.

But Han is coming. You can hear his tauntaun's hooves crushing the ice. After a moment, Luke stirs.

"Dagobah," he says, the word slurred. "Dago . . . bah. Ben?"

Ben? Is Luke hallucinating about Ben? Well, at least he is still alive. Then you hear the snort and gobble of a tauntaun right next to you.

"Whoa, girl. Here they are!" Han shouts.

"Han?" you say.

"Yeah, yeah, it's me," he says.

"So cold," Luke mumbles, though his eyes are open now. "Han, so cold, but I'm getting warmer now. I think I can sleep."

"No, Luke. That means you're freezing. Fight it. Don't go to sleep! Don't give up on me now. I didn't drag you two kids off Tatooine just to see you die here!" Han shouts.

Then you hear him whisper next to your ear.

"Come on, help me here. Try to move your legs. We've got to get all three of us onto this tauntaun."

"You're right," you tell Lando. "I just can't betray Luke or the others. What are we going to do?"

"There's nothing we can do until they get here," Lando replies. "But once they land, I have a plan."

When he tells you what he has in mind, you smile.

Finally you're doing the right thing. It feels good.

As soon as you leave Lando in his cell, you go to Darth Vader.

"My Lord, I have spent some time with Calrissian," you say, allowing Vader to think you have tortured Lando. "I believe he is prepared to cooperate with Imperial plans. Cloud City means more to him than any friendship. As does his own life, of course."

"Well done, Lieutenant," Vader says. "Perhaps you will be a worthy heir to me after all."

When Han, Leia, Chewbacca, and C-3PO arrive at Cloud City, Lando greets them. You stand by inside the banquet room, where Darth Vader waits. Boba Fett, the bounty hunter, is there, too, ready to take Han Solo when Vader is done.

When the door opens, you hope for the best. If Han and the others try to fight back, they'll surely be killed.

"Han!" Leia shouts instantly when she sees Darth Vader inside the banquet room.

You take a deep breath to steady yourself. "Luke, be careful," you say nervously. "That thing could be dangerous."

"This little guy dangerous?" Luke says. "He doesn't look too dangerous to me."

You get a better look at the creature, and you have to agree with Luke. But still, you want to be careful around any unknown alien life-form.

"Dangerous?" the creature says. "Only my walking stick have I."

"Well, sneaking up on somebody like that is a good way to get yourself roasted, Shorty," you say.

"Merely curious am I," the creature says. "Wondering why come here you do."

"We're looking for someone," you explain.

"Found someone you have, I would say, hmmm?" the alien says with a chuckle.

"We're searching for a great warrior," Luke adds.

"Aaah," the alien says, nodding wisely. "A great warrior. Wars not make one great. But still, help you I will."

"We don't want your help," Luke says.

"All I want is to get off this mudhole," you add.

"Mudhole!" the alien yells angrily. "My home this is!"

"Hey, kid!" Han says happily. "I thought for sure you'd bought it back on Hoth! Great to see you!"

"You too, Han," you say. "But I don't think you'll be so happy to see me in another minute."

"What?" Han asks. "I don't get it."

You pull out your lightsaber and turn it on. Han looks stunned, and Chewbacca roars in surprise and anger. Han reaches for his blaster, but you are too fast. You slash at his arm, wounding him but not doing any serious damage. When Chewbacca comes after you, you use the Force to render him unconscious.

"I am much too powerful to fight, Han," you say. "Just surrender and I won't have to hurt you."

"You traitor!" Han says angrily, clutching his wounded arm. "I never would have expected it."

Then he rushes at you. You are forced to knock him out as well. You load both Chewie and Han into your ground transport and return to the hangar where the *Falcon* is docked. Han and Chewbacca are already starting to stir, so you have to make this quick.

And work it does! Soon two of the walkers have gone down in the snow, mostly undamaged but useless until the battle is finished. There are too many of them, and Luke's method of stopping them too difficult, for a real victory, but at least you've slowed them down long enough for the evacuation.

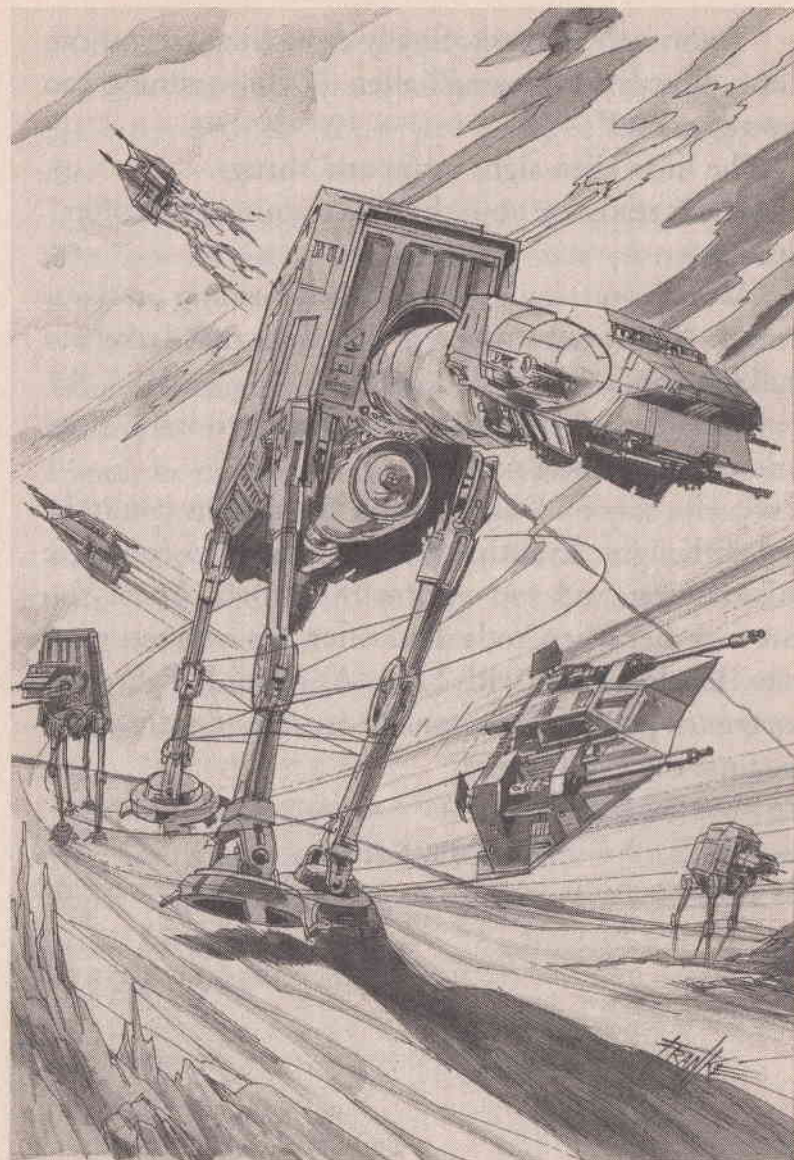
You hear a scream. Glancing out of the cockpit, you see that the back of Luke's snowspeeder is burning.

You realize that Luke's gunner, Dack, is dead. Without Dack, Luke is nothing but a moving target.

"Luke, you're out of it!" you shout over the com-link. "Nothing you can do without a gunner. Get back to base. We'll take it from here!"

But Luke won't listen. A few moments later, he's hit again. This time, his snowspeeder crashes into the ice and snow of the planet's surface. You fly around him, trying to see what he's doing. When you realize what he has in mind, you think he's crazy.

Luke fires a cable under a walker's belly and uses a pulley to haul himself up. With his lightsaber, he slashes open the bottom of the walker and throws in some explosives before dropping to the snow. The walker's legs almost crush him, but he rolls clear.



"Train me?" you ask, finally crouching so you can look directly at the small alien. "What training can you give me?"

The little alien sighs again and shrugs.

"If not ready are you, then no training can I offer," it says.

"Wait," you say, a crazy idea forming in your mind. "Don't tell me you're this Yoda that Luke was talking about. The Jedi Master."

"Yes," Yoda says. "Luke was difficult to train. Even more difficult will you be."

So you stay on Dagobah and Yoda trains you to be a Jedi Knight. Eventually, Luke returns to complete his training, and you work with him and Yoda. You are together when Yoda dies. After this, you return to the Rebel Alliance with Luke. As a Jedi Knight, you make a powerful opponent in the deadly fight against the evil Empire.

THE END

"Luke won't be able to stay away," you add.

"This Luke's a friend of yours?" Calrissian asks. He sneers at you. "You're just going to set him up to die?"

His words hurt, and you reply in anger. "Why is that any different from what you're planning for Han?"

Calrissian's eyes go wide. He knows you're right. While he might have gone along with Vader's plan before, now that he realizes he's about to betray his friend, he overcomes his fear of Vader.

"Forget it, Vader!" he says. "You can do whatever you want with me, but I'm not setting Han up for you. When he gets here, my city controllers won't even let him land."

Vader is quiet, and you know he is angry with you. If you hadn't spoken, Calrissian would have cooperated.

"Fine," Vader replies. "We will proceed without you, Calrissian. And when Skywalker is finally dead, you will have the pleasure of dying with the rest of Solo's friends."

Vader turns to you.

Suddenly the open space ahead begins to grow smaller. The massive beast is closing its huge mouth, preparing to swallow you along with the others. Its jagged teeth sweep down, narrowing your exit.

"Come on!" you urge the *Falcon*.

You turn the ship sideways and barely slide through the opening before the huge creature's mouth closes. You fly the ship at top speed away from the asteroid, and the thing thrusts forward, trying to bite at the *Falcon*. But it's too late. You've made it out!

Then the horror of what you've just done hits you. Guilt weighs heavily on you. You dodge massive asteroids, hoping to make it to the edge of the asteroid field in one piece. You are bombarded by some of the smaller space rocks. The ship's defensive shields hold up. Then you are rocked by another impact. This one isn't an asteroid. You check the scanners and discover an Imperial Star Destroyer nearby, with a full squad of TIE fighters on board. They're after you now.

"You can say that again, Your Majesticness," Han whispers. "We're out of here."

"No!" Vader roars. "Get ships out after them immediately!"

"Right away, Lord Vader!" replies the captain of the stormtroopers.

But a moment later, the captain returns to tell Vader that the *Falcon* has escaped.

"Captain," Vader says grimly, then turns and points at the controller. "Execute this man. And you!" he says, staring down at you. "Find Solo and the others and bring them to me!"

You can't argue with Vader. You set off searching for your friends in a long-range Imperial ship.

During your search, you use the dark side of the Force to become a powerful warrior. Finally your power leads you to a tiny planet overrun by mercenaries, pilots, and traders. You find the *Falcon*. With the Force, you sense that only Leia and C-3PO are on board. You know exactly where to find Han. You wait outside a bar for your old friend to emerge. When he does, with Chewie at his side, you step in front of them.

Chewie roars a happy greeting, but you feel nothing for your friend. The dark side controls you now.

"I've got to get back to Rogue Squadron," you say. "That last transport needs all the protection we can give it, and I'd hate to leave fighters behind. We'll need the firepower."

You all head back the way you came and quickly arrive at a fork in the base's tunnel system. One path leads to the main bay, where the transports and X-wings are being launched. The other leads to the maintenance bay, where Chewie has the *Falcon* ready for takeoff.

"Good luck to you, kid," Han says.

"Have faith, Lieutenant," Leia tells you.

"I will, Princess," you reply. "May the Force be with you."

You head toward the main launch bay, and Han and Leia go in the other direction. You laugh as you hear Threepio complaining, calling out to Han and Leia to wait up.

Moments after you've split up, you come to a blast door. Before you can hit the controls to open it, the door slides open on its own. Suddenly you find yourself face-to-face with a squad of stormtroopers. In their center stands Darth Vader himself.

"Ah," Vader says. "So there are stragglers after all."

You stare at Vader. Just being near him sends chills up your spine. You reach for your blaster. The stormtroopers move to fire their weapons.

You are terrified by the idea of being swallowed alive, and if you wait for the others, that's certain to happen. You make the hardest decision of your life, closing the *Falcon*'s ramp.

"Lieutenant!" Threepio cries. "What are you doing? Captain Solo, the Princess and, Chewbacca—"

"Shut up, Threepio!" you snap. "I'm saving our lives."

"Kid!" Han screams over the comlink, even as the *Falcon* starts to rise on its thrusters. "What the heck are you doing?"

"Sorry, Han," you reply truthfully. "But I figure it's better for one of us to live than all of us to die!"

"Just drop the ramp! We'll be on in seconds!" Leia shouts into the com. In the background, you can hear Chewbacca roar in anger and alarm.

You work the ship's controls and turn the *Falcon* toward the mouth of the "cave," quickly leaving the others behind. You turn the comlink off so you don't have to hear them screaming at you.

"I'm so sorry," you whisper.

Behind you, C-3PO mutters, "Horrible, simply horrible." He's only a droid, but you can't even face him after what you've done, so you turn and switch him off.

"I can handle them," you say. You realize that you mean it. You know you *can* handle them. You're a Jedi now, at least a Jedi-in-training.

You turn to run down the hallway. Lando calls out to you.

"Here, kid. You're going to need this," he says. He throws you your lightsaber. "I made sure Vader didn't get his hands on it."

"What about Luke?" Leia asks.

"Trust me on this, Princess," you say. "I've known Luke my entire life. He can take care of himself. There's nothing we can do for him anyway, except let Vader kill us. I don't think that would help."

Leia smiles. Then her face grows gravely serious again.

"Bring Han back," she says.

You're gone, running off down the corridor, headed for the east wing and Boba Fett.

TURN TO PAGE 5.

"Sorry," you mumble.

"Still will I help you find your friend," the alien says.

"He's not our friend. We're looking for Yoda, a Jedi Master. He's supposed to be here on Dagobah, but I guess I'm . . ." Luke trails off.

"Jedi Master?" the alien repeats. "Jedi you want to be, then? Why you want to be Jedi?"

"Mostly because of my father, I guess," Luke admits. "Darth Vader, the man who murdered him, has to be stopped."

Suddenly Luke turns and stomps back to the swamp.

"Come on, Lieutenant!" he calls. "We've got to get out of here. Let's try to raise at least one of those X-wings from the swamp. It was stupid to come here. We can't sit around on a swamp planet while the Empire kills our friends."

Suddenly the alien's face seems to change. He sighs.

"I cannot teach this one," he says aloud, his voice sounding different. "This one has no patience, Obi-Wan."

COULD IT BE BEN?
FIND OUT ON PAGE 83.

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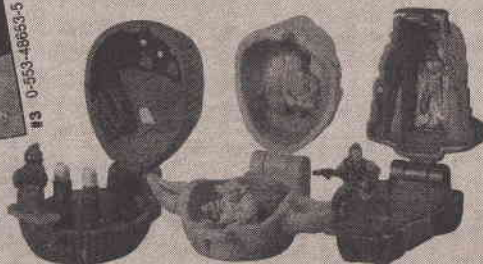
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